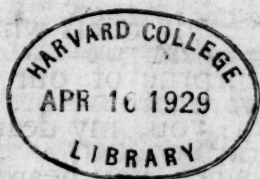


THE
FATAL EFFECTS
OF
DECEPTION.
A NOVEL.
IN THREE VOLUMES,
VOL. II.

L O N D O N :

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T H E
FATAL DECEPTION,

J. FEATHERSTONE, at BATH.

T O

W. COOPER, at DUBLIN.

I HAVE lately been obliged to make an unforeseen journey into the North, which prevented my reaching this place before yesterday ;---I lose no time in acquainting you with the occasion of my jaunt, and its consequences.

VOL. II.

B

A

A letter from Patty hurried me down, her mother died suddenly, and and her imprudent conduct before death, (I may without injuring her memory say wickedness,) had involved the poor girl in some disagreeable persecutions, from which she wanted my advice to extricate her ;---in short, her mother had been base enough, to enter into treaty with a dissolute man of fortune in the neighbourhood, to obtain her daughter's acquiescence, with some proposals he had made her, and which she had contemptuously rejected.

I have been lucky enough to dissipate her fears, and fixed her much to her inclination, as a boarder in the family of a respectable clergyman :--- he lives a sufficient distance to secure her

her from the resentment, or future insolence of a fellow, who (presuming upon an affluent fortune,) is neither restrained in his pursuits, by decency or humanity ;---Patty's behaviour has been most exemplary, yet however prudent her conduct ;---strangers, handsome strangers, cannot escape envy and malevolence.

She thinks no more of continuing a shop, a scheme that I from the first disapproved ; but she was determined upon it from the worthiest motive ;---the prospect of supporting herself, in a little time, without making use of the settlement I had made her, which she could not help receiving with regret, as it appeared to her, the wages of iniquity and imprudence.

You will condemn me I am sure that not converted by the justness of her sentiments, and actuated by a revived affection; I dared to propose her return to me! used all the rhetoric I was master of, and offered her unlimited conditions, but in vain! what was her answer?

“ Mr. Featherstone, you cannot
“ doubt my love, since to that fatal
“ passion, I sacrificed every thing
“ a woman ought to hold dear;—
“ did I love you less, I should perhaps
“ reflect with less severity, upon
“ myself; but our connection is at
“ an end.—

“ Leave me I conjure you, in the
“ hopes of attaining the peace of
“ mind, I have so long lost,—be
compassion-

THE FATAL DECEPTION.

5

“compassionate, and tempt me not
“to the repetition of an offence,
“which will imbitter every hour of my
“life.

“Young, inexperienced, and fond
“of you to distraction, I listened, and
“in a fatal, weak moment, surren-
“dered myself to your arms,—I was
“more fortunate than my prudence
“deserved,—I found you tender, and
“generous—while your passion
“was yet violent,—at a time when
“my whole soul could admit of
“no other object than yourself,—
“prompted by virtue and reason, I
“urged a separation,—what, notwith-
“standing the justness of my mo-
“tives has not that separation cost
“me!—renew not my dear Mr. Fea-
“therstone, conflicts in my bosom,

B 3

“which

“ which I can ill support,—I revere
“ virtue ! though I have been unfor-
“ tunately tempted, to swerve from
“ it’s rules.”

What could I answer ?—overcome
by the powerfulness of her reasons,
I desisted, and promised never to of-
fend her, by any future solicitations
to her dishonour.—But I will tell
you all my weakness,—penetrated by
the nobleness of her principles,—her
tenderness for me, the author of her
disquiet ! I intreated her to yield me
her hand, and receive me as her hus-
band,—she was at first surprised, and
confounded : but in an instant recol-
lected herself, and absolutely refused
me.—

“ I will

“ I will not deny said she, that
 “ your generosity transports me ! I
 “ have the utmost satisfaction, in hear-
 “ ing your proposal as it confirms me
 “ of your good opinion,—had you
 “ deceived me with the promise of
 “ making me your wife ; I would
 “ not hesitate a moment in accept-
 “ ing it now as you would then
 “ have been the party blamable,
 “ —but I was in love, I thought
 “ of no terms, and weakly, impru-
 “ dently submitted to our mutual pas-
 “ sion.—

“ A few years hence, you will re-
 “ flect upon your present offer, very
 “ differently ; and thank me for re-
 “ fusing you a wife, whose conduct
 “ has been so reproachable”

B 4

I was

I was obliged to submit to her determination.—she seemed however happier, from the strong instance I had given her, of my regard and esteem: and parted with more composure than I could have expected; but a composure that I am assured she was inspired with, from reflections on the justness of her conduct.

I am this minute setting out with Lambert, upon an excursion into Berkshire; from which place, you may again expect to hear, from your sincere

J. FEATHERSTONE.

From

From the same, to the same.

Stretton Green;

YOUR Louisa is most worthy your regard.—doubt not her constancy or resolution.—Morden shall not be allowed to divide your mutual affection—Lord Wilton may appear unaccountable, but he does not want discernment,—Lambert and I are sincerely devoted to you, and expect every thing from time, and our en-

B 5

dea-

deavours to serve you,—Stretton-Green with proper management, might be made a tereſtrial paradise.—indeed nature has already done ſo much, there is little occaſion for Brown's capability—I am not very great at the deſcriptive, but as there is at preſent no better painter, you muſt be ſatisfied with my ſketch of it.

The houſe is large, the rooms, (tho' not modern,) ſpacious, and magnificent!—the offices remarkably convenient, conſiſting of two wings, joined by colonades to the body of the building:—If any fault can be found with it, 'tis being upon too large a ſcale for the eſtate; tho' I find that is about three thouſand a year! nothing can exceed its ſituation, or the beauty of the country round it:—it ſtands high-

The FATAL DECEPTION. — II

er then one would expect from the approach, which is by a very long, but scarce perceptible ascent.

There is every way an extensive prospect, except on the north east side; from whence it is sheltered by a large hill, consisting of near two hundred acres of wood land; well grown with excellent timber, fit for the ax:—which by the bye, I hope our friend will not be under the necessity of applying, these many years; except where age makes it proper, there has been walks cuts in many parts of it, but long disused, and now very much grown up,—but Lambert is pleased with the gloominess of the place, and purposes to have them again put in order, and fresh ones constructed; so as to make the whole more convenient.

He has already plan'd Temples, and hermitages; and means to furnish them, with a proper collection of statues, busts, inscriptions &c.—he has fixed upon a particular spot, where he means to dedicate a temple to solitude—another to friendship:

The situations he has pitched upon are admirably adapted to the design,—but I confess myself more pleased, with the convenience of his stables and dog kennels, the spaciousness of his park and gardens, the coolness of the cellar, and plenty of his larder; these are essentials, whatever the connoisseurs may pretend, that cannot be dispenced with: a well furnished kitchen, is as necessary for the support of the body, as a well stored library for the instruction of the mind.

Lam.

Lambert when his attention is not employed in business, is for ever wrapt in thought; often shuns my company and retires to his favourite scheme in the wood,—at night, when of necessity he cannot well avoid me, I start subjects to engage him in conversation, which he takes the first opportunity to drop:

In short, I never saw so great an alteration, in any human being;—to what can it be owing, I frequently put the question! his answer is “nothing;” “your present inclination prompts you to company and society, mine to reflection and contemplation!”—I sometimes tell him he is in love, he shakes his head,—“He has suffered too much already, by the effects of that passion in others; not to dread
the

the consequence in himself.—He declines all advances from the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, though I have not been wanting on my part to second their solicitations :—I must run away from him myself, lest I be infected with the same disease!

After remonstrating with him to day, on the unkindness of his behaviour to me ; I have prevailed upon him at length, to submit I should send cards of invitation, to the gentlemen to dine with us to-morrow.

His wounds are now near well, —his constitution much mended, and could I persuade him to take field exercise ; I am sure it would confirm his health, and mend his spirits.

Wilson.

Wilson is expected here from town every day ;——Lambert having altered his former intentions, now purposes to make him his agent and companion ; and to give a salary of three hundred a year.——I wish he was come, as he is attached to Lambert, and I am told has a great flow of spirits, some humour and much benevolence.

Strange, that a man with Lambert's prospects in life, beloved by his friends and revered by his dependants, will not be happy ;---that he is not so, is manifest to me.——But if we have not all a share of real, we usually contrive to substitute a sufficient quantity of imaginary evils ; the difference of which is immaterial.

How

However I think it a duty we owe to a kind providence, and to our own quiet, to attend as much as possible to the bright side of our condition; and those evils which cannot be avoided, submitted to with resignation.

If your rattling friend continues long here, expect to find him an absolute stoic :---I wish Wilson come, that I may be at liberty to peep at the metropolis;---I cannot quit Lambert under his present dejection, and if I am not speedily relieved, I shall be quite moped.

Tomorrow's dinner I hope will give a brisker circulation to his blood, and make him a livelier companion, to dear William,

your most affectionate

JOHN FEATHERSTONE.

Miss

The FATAL DECEPTION. 17

Miss EGERTON,

Lady LOUISA WILTON.

YOU have made Featherstone's peace and I am satisfied;—shall I be sincere Louisa, I feared some amour.—
“Is it so Eliza?—Very true Louisa, I told you in a former letter I did not dislike him; and did you ever know me

insincere?—do not however suppose I am distractedly in love;—no, no, only a trifling *penchant*, which his tender enquiries (Mrs. Saucebox) gives him some small right to expect.

Love my dear Louisa, in hearts like mine or Featherstone's, never makes such a bustle, as it has done in one that I have the honour to be a little acquainted with;—mine, my dear, is a laughing, not a melancholly cupid.—I do not indeed expect such very sublime happiness, as I sincerely hope will await my Louisa in possessing the man of her heart.

The more extreme our sensibility, I allow, the more exquisite is the felicity, upon the attainment of our wishes, but though my feelings may be less
 suf-

susceptible of tender impressions, it is no cause why happiness deduced from reason, should not be equally permanent.

Happiness sometimes too my dear Eliza, by extremity of sentiment, dwindles into anxiety and disquiet;—sentiment likewise may be too fine drawn;—let not that be the case with my Louisa.

My mother repeats every hour, her wishes that I may be addressed by a man of Featherstone's character;—she says he is personable, good natured, lively and has a good estate.—Well, I do not contradict her, but what avails it? I am perhaps as indifferent to him, as he shall be to me in two months, if my mother should be mistaken in her conjectures;—she insists
upon

upon it there is nothing but a little time wanting, to bring him to my feet.

How will he wear his chains Louisa ? like a gentle, tender, submissive slave think you ?—I rather fancy he will be troublesome in bonds, and require my utmost address to bring him under command ;—like an angler I must humour his waywardness, till he is fairly resigned to my will ; then, like a generous conqueror, if a church door should stand invitingly open, and an obliging, smirking, personage, with a black gown, and smooth band, desire us to walk in, I may perhaps be induced to drop him one of my best curtsies, and tie myself to my obedience, for the rest of my life.

Fea-

Featherstone thus my husband;—
he not ill bred, or ill natured;—
your friend no vixen.—I dare swear
(without being unfashionably fond,
or fashionably vicious,) we should
jogg on in the old dog trot way, of
our great great grandfather's and
grandmother's, very comfortably.—
he will pursue his country amusements
without commencing brute;—I, now
and then, engage in the diversions of
the town, without making him a beast.
—You see I am not unreasonable!—
the numerous miscarriages of the *beau*
monde, oftentimes proceed from ex-
pecting too much.

Keep my secret Louisa, least I am
disappointed of my man; under which
misfortune, if my angry stars decree
it so; I will endeavour to comport
my-

22. The FATAL DECEPTION.

myself, (an ugly old maidish word
that) with all imaginable courage and
discretion;—ye powers never let me
have occasion to stile myself, my dear-
est Louisa's slighted

ELIZA EGERTON.

J. FEA-

JACK FEATHERSTONE, STRETTON-
GREEN,

T O

W. COOPER, at DUBLIN.

OUR dinner the other day has had an admirable effect! Lambert was more chearful than I could have hoped for. The company, indeed, were so strange a composition of characters, it was impossible not to be diverted; they

they are, with two or three exceptions, absolutely beyond description! Materials for punch are not more different than they to each other; yet being well mixed, with an addition of a good dinner, and excellent claret; we made a pleasant composition. Lambert's aunt, or sister, not being here prevented us the pleasure of seeing any ladies. A Beaumont, a Williams, and an Ambrose, are three gentlemen of moderate fortunes in the neighbourhood; sociable, sensible, and well bred.—The two first married; the latter a batchelor. A physician, one doctor Fortescue, reputed very able in his profession—It may be so! but he is an abominable companion! as peevish as poor S——, and as difficult to be pleased. The rector of the parish, what we too frequently find a rector! super-

supercilious to his inferiors, assuming to his equals, and a mean parasite to those whose affluent fortunes or connections, are capable of serving his ambition. When he first saw me, considering me, I suppose, as Lambert's humble friend and dependant ; he did me the honour of a slight inclination of the head, with a contemptuous survey of my person ! But after whispering the doctor, whose curiosity, I apprehend, had enabled him to give the information, that I did not exist upon charity, he was more than commonly attentive and ceremonious to me the remainder of the day. — Bad qualities in a clergyman, like faults in a capital picture, appear more conspicuously glaring.

A hop-factor from the Borough, retired upon what he calls a sufficiency; (fifty thousand pounds,) has laid out twenty of it, in a *villa* about six miles from hence. Happy it is not nearer—I am told it is well worth a visit! He has been at a most immoderate expence, in building stupendous ruins without judgment; a superb grotto where a dairy would have been admirable; and a Chinese pavilion, decked with the most tinsel ornaments, instead of a hermitage: In short, he has constructed every thing, so contrary to the plain dictates of common sense; (though one pities,) it is impossible to avoid laughing at the poor fellow's stupidity.

To put a finishing stroke to the elegance of his designs; he has a park
round

round his house, of large extent, and most admirable situations, yet he has contracted (what he calls) his pleasure-ground, where these gew-gaws are erected, into so small a space; not a single defect can be hid from the least curious observer: And, to his misfortune, they are sufficiently numerous.

Will Williams, the Wimble of this country, a nephew of Mr. Beaumont's, and a brace of young bacchanalian squires, compleated the groupe.

Have I not wearied you with the account? Lambert acquitted himself pretty well, and as I had hinted to the company the indisposition which hung upon him, his little absences were not attended to—The two family gentlemen went away early, and seemingly

C 2

well

well satisfied with their new neighbour. Doctor Fortescue growled till he had swallowed his allowance of wine : The parson's grey pad came for him at seven—Lambert left us at ten ; and I concluded the evening with the remainder of our company ; who did not leave me till three the next morning, happy as ebriety could make them—I had promises of pointer puppies of the very best breed in the kingdom, from honest Wimble—A dissertation upon trade, and the culture of hops, from my friend of the Borough, who has reconciled me to him (notwithstanding his absurdities) by his great good nature, and keeping his tongue from evil speaking ! Qualities with me, which hide a multitude of faults.—The squires were delighted that I loved hunting, repeated pedigrees of
horses,

horses, long as a sermon;—offered wagers—proposed matches! made me fix the time for a day's hunt! swore I was a jolly fellow, and shook me heartily by the hand—Ordered their horses, —made the whole mansion echo; hoix tally hoe;—cracking of whips! &c.—and at last, kindly left me to seek repose, which was disturbed all night, with dreams of hop-grounds, grottos, horses, and puppy-dogs.

Why do I not hear from you? this is the third, or fourth letter I have wrote without a syllable of reply! No accounts of Louisa, if you do not write soon——Lambert says, he is in expectation of hearing from you very speedily: He bids me tell you, though his temper may be altered, his friendship for you is warm as ever.—He fa-

vours me with the second place in his
esteem, with which, and your regard,
I am perfectly satisfied ; being

very faithfully,

and affectionately,

Yours,

J. FEATHERSTONE.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM COOPER, DUBLIN.

JAMES LAMBERT.

My dear Lambert,

OUGHT I not to esteem myself singularly fortunate in possessing the friendship of you and Featherstone, and of enjoying, to an unlimited degree, the affections of so deserving, so heavenly a woman as Lady Louisa—I

C 4

am

am not unthankful to Providence for such essential blessings, and in gratitude endeavour to prepare myself to bear with becoming fortitude less favourable dispensations — My opinion of Lady Louisa's regard, and the constancy of your friendship, will not admit the smallest doubt of a diminution in either—But have I not cause to be alarmed in my fears for her, upon her brother's discovery of our mutual passion—Have I not reason to dread the grief it may occasion my father and sister : And how severely are my fears increased by the accounts I have received of your unaccountable depression of spirits—The faculty have mistaken your case ; it is a disorder of the mind—Some racking passion at your heart which you cannot prevail upon yourself to discover ; unbosom yourself,
my

my dear James, to Featherstone, make him the confidant of your soul—When cases appear desperate, the consolation of friendship pours a balm into the soul—Should you think Featherstone too volatile—If you look upon me not unworthy your esteem, intrust me with the cause of your disquiet—Accounts say you are recovered of your wounds—Why then this dreadful melancholy which oppresses you—Can my services—can any proof of my friendship relieve you—You know you may command it to the utmost extent—I am every hour in expectation of things being carried to extremities with Lady Louisa—I cannot bear to expose her to the violence of Lord Wilton's anger—No behaviour of his shall so far provoke me as to forget his friendship and my obligations—But I am by no laws of

C 5 friendship

friendship or gratitude with-held from chastising the infamy of Morden—who through the strange infatuation of a brother, would by violence possess a woman who detests him—It is impossible to resolve on any future measures—Lady Louisa I know would consent to unite her fate with mine—But can I support her as Lord Wilton's daughter? Shall I poorly possess myself of her paternal fortune, to push my way in the army, and subject her to the inconveniencies of a campaign life—Impossible! If necessary, exert yourself in the cause of friendship, beauty and innocence, and suffer not merit like Louisa's to become the prey of brutality—the sacrifice of oppression!—You will, I am sure, be obliged by so strong an instance of my confidence and regard——

Feather-

Featherstone has wrote me a long account of his late interview with Patty! Would not a just reflection of what that very worthy deserving woman suffers, make the most hardened seducer tremble, who through delicacy, and a sense of her former imprudence, is obliged to relinquish the man it is evident she doats upon: She merits a better fate! and compassion would tempt me to regret Featherstone's intreaties to marry him should have failed, did not prudence whisper me, they could never have been perfectly happy! She, at least, from the quick sensibility of her feelings, certainly would not.—The just consciousness she has of her weakness, in resigning herself so easily to his attractions, without being deceived by villainous promises, or other detestable acts of seduction, would ne-

36 The FATAL DECEPTION.

ver have been absent from her recollection : She might have made a very deserving wife to our friend,—but I am convinced from her own reasonings, she would have been an unhappy one.—Poor Patty is so far happy, in a provision which secures her from contempt or indigence ; and she can experience where she is now situated, no malicious insinuations—no oblique reproaches, from the rigid censurers of her own sex : Unfeeling prudes ! who are virtuous from circumstances, or neglect, —not from principle ; Patty will have nothing to discompose her but her own reflections, which ought not to be severe : As in my opinion, her rectitude of conduct since, has amply atoned for every past indiscretion.

I have

I have often thought, Lambert, that amongst thousands of unhappy girls, (victims to the irretrievable passion of abandoned libertines;) how many might be found, possessed of virtues that would adorn the worthiest of the sex;—How many (could we search into the recesses of their heart;) should we find in possession of those real principles of chastity, we should in vain expect to meet with in the pretendedly virtuous; from the harshness of whose manners, and the inhumanity of whose remonstrances, these unfortunates are obliged to shelter themselves, in the arms of vice and dissipation. The severity of women to each other, confirm unthinking girls in their indiscretion, more than the enticing allurements of pleasure.

May

May those fair unfortunates—discarded and spurned by their *own* sex, and exposed to the brutality of *ours*; receive the indulgence of a beneficent being, who judges without prejudice: May their present wretchedness, atone for their misconduct; and may my worthy Lambert and I, never have to reproach ourselves with dishonouring the fairest work of the creation. Let not Featherstone see these remarks, as he may suppose I censure his affair with poor Patty as a crime which (as he was circumstanced) I only consider his misfortune. You are in possession of my warmest regard.

W. COOPER.

J. FEA-

J. FEATHERSTONE, STREET-
TON GREEN.

T O

Mr. COOPER, Sen. at BATH.

Dear Sir,

IN pursuance of my promise, I
sit down to give you, and our worthy
friends at Bath, some account of Mr.
Lambert;—his health is abundantly
mended;—exercise and air, will I
doubt not very soon make a great al-
teration

teration in his spirits for the better;—I with great difficulty prevailed upon him, a few days since, to meet the hounds;—the gentlemen of the hunt, were very attentive to him, and he returned to dinner, better pleased with the company and diversion than I expected.

The alteration he is giving directions about, employ his mind, and keeps him tolerably chearful;—he however now and then gives way to his strange depression of spirits, and all my endeavours to entertain or amuse him, are unavailing.

Wilson is come,—he surely must have a good heart;—I never saw creature so surpris'd,—so concerned; as when he was apprised of our friend's
situa-

The FATAL DECEPTION. 41

situation ;—it must not be suffered—to grow habitual, if the exertion of every endeavour of ours can prevent it.

Wilson is a favourite, and I dare say a very deserving one of Lambert's, he pays great regard to his advice, and his natural chearfulness of heart, the honest remonstrances he does not fear giving him, may do great things for us.——

“ What am I think now,” says he, addressing himself to Lambert, “ I looked upon you, as a man of honour, and above a breach of promise to any man.”

Sir,—says our friend surprised ! the sudden change, did not fail to bring him out of a reverie, that afflicted us.

“ I

“ I say Sir,” continues Wilton,
 “ you have broke your word with
 “ me;—you have (I grant it) pro-
 “ vided for me nobly, much be-
 “ yond my desert;—but you pro-
 “ mised also to make me happy;—
 “ you do not so, if I continue to see
 “ you uneasy, and in the prime of
 “ life giving yourself up to a melan-
 “ choly, as unaccountable as it ap-
 “ pears to be violent.---The misfor-
 “ tunes I have suffered, when com-
 “ pared with any you can have
 “ felt, would be as a drop of water to
 “ the ocean.—Has not my depend-
 “ ance upon the goodness of provi-
 “ dence, been amply justified?---from
 “ whence can your disorder proceed?
 “ if merely from your late illness,
 “ you ought to use every effort to
 “ dispell it.

“ If

“ If any circumstance in life, gives
 “ you cause of unhappiness, cannot
 “ your friends assist you? may not
 “ their advice at least, relieve you?
 “ but if the nature of your despon-
 “ dence, is owing to causes, that
 “ even our attachments will not in-
 “ duce you to acquaint us with;—
 “ sink not unworthily under afflic-
 “ tions, but exert your courage, and
 “ rise superior to misfortunes.

“ There is a field before you, will
 “ always administer pleasure, even in
 “ your keenest anguish.—you have a
 “ noble estate;—let your attention
 “ be employed, in relieving the dis-
 “ tressed;—there are always too great
 “ a number of worthy objects, to be
 “ found; and to a generous mind,
 “ the power of promoting the felicity
 of

“ of others, will, in a very great degree contribute to its own.”

“ Give me your hand Wilson, your sentiments are just ;-- my distress, let it proceed from what cause it may, shall in future, give less disturbance to my friends.”

“ ’Tis as it should be, (replies Wilson, —but a lesson from life will make a deeper impression !”—And he conducted us to the park gate ;-- where four very old men, and as many women, (labourers and cottagers in the adjacent village,) were assembled, and hobbling to a tune played by a blind scraper as old as themselves ;— they had lost sight of their hardships and infirmities ;—and in cans of strong beer, were blessing their landlord,

and thanking providence for the few comforts they enjoyed.

Lambert gave them money, asked them many questions, and sent them away in a state of happiness, which only the contented mind can enjoy.---

“Your lesson my dear Wilson, (says Lambert,) wants no illustration.”——I need not I fancy, tell you Sir, it was a device hit upon by this worthy fellow, (whose company I am absolutely in love with) in order to contrast the resignation of the poor wretches, to their scanty pittance, and themiseries of old age ;--with his affluent condition, and want of resolution. I am sure it will have all the effect we can wish for ;—it has already made the most surprising alteration.

Wil-

Wilson will not let him rest a moment, if the weather admits our going abroad;—he hurries him about his grounds,—amongst his workmen or tenants, &c.—proposes plans for improvements;—regulations in his family;—rewards for the industrious, &c.

If the weather confines us within, Wilson very deliberately fills his pipe, and introduces the back-gammon tables.—He speaks of you Sir with the greatest pleasure, and is charmed to find you intend being here so soon.

By way of varying the scene, I have proposed a jaunt to town, for a few days, to which Lambert has agreed:—but we shall certainly return—

turn, before we can possibly expect your company at the green.

Mr. Lambert requests I will deliver his affectionate love to Mrs. Bruce and his sister; his very best regards to you, Lord Wilton, and the ladies;--- in which he is most respectfully joined, by dear Sir,

your obedient, and

very humble servant,

J. FEATHERSTONE.

WIL-

WILLIAM COOPER, at DUBLIN,

T O

His FATHER at BATH.

I AM overcome with gratitude and affection, when I reflect how much I am obliged to the dearest of fathers, for his tender care of my youth.—The precepts which he so assiduously inculcated in my

in my memory, and the principles of virtue, honour and humanity, which by example, so carefully planted in my breast.—How many evils have I avoided, how many inconveniences escaped by my attention to his advice.—the judicious caution you recommended, in the choice of my friendship ; how much it has benefited me !

I have two friends, whom I sincerely value ! many acquaintance, that are not unworthy, and with whom I occasionally can be happy in company :—the former will, I am assured, ever deserve the continuance of my regard, and should a change happen in my opinion, of any of the latter, I can give them up, without being considerably mortified.

The first enjoy my unlimited confidence; the last esteem me, as I make no distinction amongst them, and treat them with civility and respect.

Within the limited bounds, of my small experience, how many have I seen striking upon the rocks you have taught me to shun! men of sense too, who with the assistance of your pilotage, would have been equally capable of avoiding the danger.

Example here, as in other places, is too prevalent! and libertinism so disregarded, that I am only surprised to meet with so many people, of both sexes, who have still retained worthy principles, and are ornaments of society.

The

The Irish, are naturally hospitable, generous, and goodnatured ! generally found of jollity, and play ; and as there are few amongst them, devoid of spirit ; it is sometimes the occasion of rencounters.

This passion for tilting, is however much abated throughout the kingdom ! men of sense very justly condemn it, though it must be regretted, they are now and then under the necessity themselves, of drawing their swords, when ever an illiterate bravo, through insolence or caprice, shall take it into his head to affront them.

The tendency to a custom so disgraceful, so troublesome to community, cannot be wondered at, when we reflect, that people even of the

lowest class,) never neglect this part of education in their children, though unable to afford them any other : well versed in the noble science, full of ignorance, and spirit ! their youth launch into the world, eager for an opportunity of displaying their talents and magnanimity.

A man of worth, sometimes falls a victim to their superior address : but as people of this stamp, when once known, are usually avoided, it does not happen very frequently.

The gentlemen of Ireland are polite, well bred, lively, and truly brave, without being illiberally prejudiced against other countries, they are fond of their own, but not unjustly partial to it.

Here

Here are more Patriots from principle, then on your side the water, in proportion as the distressed inhabitants are more severely oppressed, though I appertain to the Castle, I may venture to say to my father, how inhuman it is in the ministry, to burthen the industrious ! discourage their manufactures ! strip the poor, and load this unhappy country, with taxes they are unable to pay !—to pamper the venal appetites, of a set of needy, worthless, unprincipled dependants.

While I commiserate the condition of the Irish in general, I cannot but sincerely pity the feelings of our viceroy,—(such of them I mean, who have feelings) when they find themselves obliged to promote unpopular or unseasonable acts.

His present excellency, is with great justice beloved ; whenever he is obliged to execute any thing, contrary to the interest of the kingdom, it is not without the greatest compunction ; and he is truly rejoiced when he has the power of serving them, by a reduction of taxes, or any encouragement of their manufactures or commerce.

In general, the Lord Lieutenant's have their hands tied, and can with justice be applauded or condemned, as they, with more or less spirit, remonstrate against illegal and oppressive measures.

These I confess are sentiments, if I was called upon to publish, which would not be a means of pushing my preferment ; but as prudence on
the

the one hand, will prevent me from making any such unnecessary publication;—on the other, I should have but a very slender opinion, of the service I am engaged in;—was I obliged to lose sight of my rights as an Englishman, or not permitted to be affected by the distresses of my countrymen! such I consider all his Majesty's subjects without restriction: and I will ever be as averse to any share in the destruction of their liberties, as I am at all times ready to sacrifice my life in the service of my King and country, against the enemies of either.

Let me not mislead you, my dear Sir, into a wrong opinion of my principles;—I hold the false bellows of pretended patriotism, and the mean

fervility of a court sycophant in equal contempt.

Let me change the subject, and inform my father, a person who has not visited Ireland, can have no conception of the difference there is, between the gaiety of our Court, and that of London.

The parade with which the viceroy attends parliament, is as much superior to his majesty's, on the same occasion, as the splendor and magnificence of the Mogul, exceeds our European monarchs.

The entertainments at the Castle are princely!—the Irish ladies handsome, and accomplished! though there is no danger of your receiving a daughter

daughter in law, from amongst them; had I the vanity to suppose I might make a choice.

I must not omit to inform you, that I have had an opportunity, of doing a signal piece of service to Mr. Traverse; who so justly deserved our thanks for his civility, and attention to Lambert while at Kinfale; by warmly recommending him to his excellency,—I have given the government a worthy officer,—he is appointed collector of customs at that port.

I rejoice to find, your health continues good, long may I have that satisfaction! and may you never have the least occasion to regret giving life

to a son, whose utmost endeavour will be to deserve, the continuance of your affection.

My sister's, Sir,—how do they? I love them for their goodness sincerely;—the amiableness of their conduct makes me esteem them.

In a letter from my friend Mr. Featherstone, I am informed of Lord Wilton's family being still with you at Bath, and of his jaunt with Lambert to Stretton-Green; I heartily hope change of place and exercise, will do him great benefit.

I must give you the trouble to present my respectful compliments to Lord and Lady Wilton, the young ladies,
Mrs.

Mrs. Bruce, and Miss Lambert;
'tis one of my greatest pleasures, when
I reflect how very truly I am, my
dear sir, your ever affectionate son,

WILLIAM COOPER.

D 6 J. FEA.

60 The FATAL DECEPTION.

J. FEATHERSTONE,

TO

WILLIAM COOPER,

London.

WILSON has done more for Lambert in a few days, than he could have expected, from the prescriptions of half a score of the faculty—which convinces me his disorder is of the mind, not any bodily infirmity.

infirmity.—I hope as he is now entirely under my care, he will not relapse; being at present a sociable companion.

Should he grow worse upon my hands, I will instantly convey him to the Green again, that he may benefit by the chearfulness and friendly admonitions of his agent and monitor.

You will admire Wilson, as well for his own merit and worthiness of principle, as his being so essentially serviceable to our friend.

We have been but a few days in town, and are eternally engaged in the fashionable round of amusements!—the Egerton family, pay every attention
to

to Mr. Lambert, and are not uncivil to me.

You gave me my introductory letter into Grosvenor-Square, and ought to be answerable for the consequences—it may be a very dangerous connection to me.

Miss Egerton is blooming, gay, chatty and unaffectedly good humoured! but why do I attempt to describe her, to a man who is so well acquainted with her—and who cannot, perhaps, recollect there is more than one woman in the world?—You must know I was prepossessed very strongly in her favour when last in town;—Why then, (you will say) make so prepos-

preposterous a proposal to Patty? I should detest myself, could I have been capable of making such an offer, and at the same time wished to decline it;—it was her merit and goodness of heart, that induced me to propose, what I thought her conduct so justly deserved; had she accepted it, Miss Egerton would have been recollected by me, merely as a valuable woman, and an agreeable acquaintance ---I do not pretend to say I would prefer Patty to Miss Egerton, upon cool and mature reflection; but the one I am almost a stranger to, the attachment and disposition of the other I am well acquainted with; and you know a homely proverb, which says, “The proof of, &c. &c.”---Patty has refused

refused me; and if I ever fix upon any other, (in the mind I am in) positively it must be Eliza Egerton, conditionally, that she will accept me---for meaning to be a true penitent, I shall without evasion, or reservation, make a full confession; a thing much more proper before than after marriage. I will not put it in the power of an intriguing coxcomb, to whisper in the ears of my wife, the past frailties of her husband.

Lambert, to whom I have hinted my sentiments, highly approves them, and he is now so solid and sentimental; I would as soon take his advice, as my grandfathers. What is your opinion of it? I think in one of your letters,
you

you complimented me, with having too good principles, for a man of pleasure! are they not likewise too good, for a state, when in the present days they seem to be so little valued or expected?---Your answer to this important quere!

Last night, in the *gaité de cœur*, and elevated with the smiles of my syren; after we left the square, I dragged Lambert to the St. Albans---a bottle or two of Shergold's champagne, putting me almost out of my senses, and raising him a few pegs higher, than I have seen him since his illness;---I took him-- where think you?---Even to ***** court---where Circe holds her midnight revels!---re-
proach

proach me not---wrapt up in my integrity, and shielded by the superior charms of my angel!--her nymphs (for me) might as well have been alabaster---I returned an absolute Joseph, though I left not my cloak.

I cannot say I am displeased with myself, for the introduction I have given Lambert---the mansion of the enchantress is fashionable---he will meet lively company, and a little dissipation will do him material service.

My estate lies so confoundedly northward, I have not yet had resolution, since I saw you, to pay it a visit, though I am strongly importuned,

tuned, and have really affairs of consequence to settle. I must get Banks to go down with me, if your father will spare him to me ;---but I cannot, will not, quit London, till---till I have been a little more particular in Grosvenor-square, and find what I have to trust to.

Wish me success---and (if such fate is allotted me) that I may wear my horns with a good grace---I shall at least be fashionable, and notwithstanding my antlers,

my dear Cooper's,

ever sincere,

and affectionate,

J. FEATHERSTONE.

Miss

Miss EGERTON,

Lady LOUISA WILTON.

“ **W** E are informed, a treaty of
 “ marriage will speedily be concluded
 “ between J. Featherstone Esq; a
 “ gentleman of large fortune in
 “ the North of England, and Miss
 “ Egerton, of Grosvenor square, sole
 “ heiress to the late honourable Ben-
 “ net

“net Egerton, a young lady of great
“beauty and accomplishments, &c.”

Have you seen such a paragraph in the papers, Louisa?—“Am I to expect it Eliza?”—Be not surprised my dear, if in the course of a few days, those impertinent praters, the advertisers, should afford you that piece of entertainment.

Yesterday, while I was moping over a pair of men’s ruffles, I have lately taken into my head to work;—
“Mr. Featherstone ma’am,” (says John) I broke my needle—“your servant Sir—where is Mr. Lambert?”

“I have not seen him, since we
“spent so agreeable an evening in
“Grosvenor-square; but I flatter my-
“self

“ self from a knowledge of your goodness, though I wait upon Mrs. and Miss Egerton singly, I shall not be worse received on that account.”

“ I thank you Sir, for my share of the compliment, and am sorry my mother should not be at home to be grateful for her part of it.”

“ How happy, my dear Miss Egerton, will be that man,” and the forward creature sat down by me, “ who shall be so fortunate to acquire your good opinion.”——“ Thank you again Sir, but pray for which of my good qualities do I appear to be favoured with yours.”——“ *Le toute ensemble.*” — Short and pithy Louisa.

“ Take

“Take care Mr. Featherstone, and
 “be not blinded by appearances;—
 “woman’s a riddle, and, like a witches
 “prayer, and must be understood by
 “contraries.”

“How elegant, my dear madam,
 “the design of these ruffles, may I
 “ask.”—and he hesitated.—“What
 “would you ask Sir?”—“You have
 “no brother;—under what obliga-
 “tions must he be, for whom you
 “take so much trouble.”

The question was artful, and not
 being expected, threw me into a little
 confusion; but I soon recollected my-
 self, and was determined to mortify
 him for it.—“The person they may
 “be intended for, possibly will not be
 “of your opinion; or if he was, as
 it

“ it will be long before they are finish-
 “ ed, I shall perhaps have reason to
 “ believe he may not deserve them.”
 —“ Surely Miss Egerton cannot
 “ justly have occasion, to think so ill
 “ of mankind.”

“ To be honest, Mr. Featherstone,
 “ experimentally, I have not; but
 “ I am determined, not to have too
 “ good an opinion, lest I should to my
 “ cost, be disagreeably deceived. In the
 “ present instance however the person
 “ to whose service I have dedicated some
 “ of my leisure time, will not, I dare say,
 “ be unthankful; can Mr. Featherstone
 “ suspect Will Cooper of ingratitude?
 —he cleared up instantly,—“ how
 “ happy you have made me, my
 “ charming Miss Egerton, by this
 “ declaration; — I feared you were
 “ inte-

“ interested by more tender motives than mere friendship.

A great deal more softness past, till encouraged by a smile or two of approbation, which the candour of his behaviour extorted from me ; — he made a formal declaration of his passion ; — he took perhaps the oddest method, of recommending himself to his mistress you ever heard of, viz. By praising a former one ; — one, he had been fond of, and who he scruples not to say, he still regards ; — one, who indiscreetly yielded to his wishes, yet one who (though most sincerely fond of him,) had from the most laudable, the most disinterested motives, utterly rejected the offer, of being his wife,

Strange as it may appear, I do not believe he could by any other application, have addressed me so successfully;—there was a sincerity in his declaration, a frankness and nobleness of principle in his confession, that deserved my approbation and esteem.

With these sentiments, could I withhold from him my permission, to apply to my worthy mother?—Ah Louisa! I know her answer;—the liberty of your friend, is near a conclusion;—and for what am I bartering it?—uncertain happiness, or assured disquiet.

I hear my good mama:—'tis even so Louisa! the dear Lady is in raptures;—says we were made for each other, that the worthiness of his heart, can only be equalled by the honesty of mine;—be-

—begins to talk of lawyers, jewels, appearance, &c. God bless her good heart, I fear she will want to precipitate matters, even more eagerly than himself.

Well, my heart and tongue, have already engaged me too far to recant, and I must take the consequence;—but ah Louisa! I dread.—Pshaw, hang fears;—in spite of prudery, a worthy engagement is what we all desire.—I will combat my apprehensions, with the burthen of an old song,---“My mother did so before me, &c. &c.”

As my affair is nearly terminated, I shall be more at liberty to attend to my friend.---Indeed I am ashamed to have been so much engaged, on so simple an occasion.—Let me have a speedy answer from Bath; you know

I cannot be compleatly happy myself, if I have any apprehensions of the misery of my friend.

How extreme would be my felicity, was my dearest Louisa at liberty, to give her hand to Mr. Cooper, at the time, when I may be induced to do the same honour to his friend

But as I cannot expect so much good fortune, let my dear girl comfort herself with the reflection, that however earnest Lord Wilton's application may be in favour of Morden ;---however unkind on the occasion ;---she is still, (thanks to providence) independant of his Lordship ;---she is intirely beloved by the man of her heart, and that man is most worthy her regard ;

she has a friend, who will ever love her, with unbounded affection; that friend, lives in Grosvenor-square, and her name at present is,

ELIZA EGERTON.

E 3

Lady

Lady LOUISA WILTON.

T O

Miss EGERTON,

WHY should I cloud the agreeable prospects of my dearest Eliza, by a recapitulation of events, that can only distress my friend, without giving any relief to myself.---Ah, my dear Egerton ! fail not to be thankful

to

to providence, who has denied you the means of being made unhappy, by the capriciousness of a brother, or of feeling the mortifications I do, when obliged to think ill of him; nature and affection prompts me but to revere.

Last week, Lord Wilton---unkind Lord Wilton; abruptly introduced the hated Morden.---I should have fainted, had not the kind attention of Lady Wilton recovered me!--my brother too, that once affectionate brother, seemed much distressed;—but soon as I was come to myself, having made signs for my sister Wilton, Harriot and Charlotte, to leave the room;

80 The FATAL DECEPTION.

“ My sister Louisa, has ever flat-
“ tered me with her affection, let her
“ now rejoice me, by a proof of it, in
“ the attention she pays the man, I
“ intreat she will look upon, as her
“ future husband---my promise has
“ been long since given to Sir Wil-
“ liam, that promise, I will, to the
“ utmost exertion of my power, invio-
“ lably observe---and never will be
“ reconciled to that person, who shall
“ endeavour to prepossess you in the
“ disfavour of a gentleman, on whom
“ I have fixed my unalterable choice.

The tyranny of Lord Wilton, and
the indelicacy of Morden; who could
see me so distressed, yet did not at-
tempt saying any thing, to procure me
a mo-

a momentary relief ; gave me a degree of confidence, I never expected.--Is it for him, Lord Wilton so ungenerously pleads, said I, who can tamely see me persecuted, by an application in his favour, without attempting to avert the resentment, which, too plainly may be seen, has possessed the man, I yet hope to find my brother.

“ Be assured you have no longer a
“ brother, Louisa, if you refuse your
“ consent to Sir William Morden’s
“ addresses.”

“ Dear then as you have been to me,
“ from infancy, I have no longer a bro-
“ ther ! I cannot be the sister you wish.”

He instantly darted out of the room !

E 5

despair,

despair, vexation, and resentment in his countenance.----To Morden, I turned, agitated to a degree that startled him.---“What part of my conduct, Sir William, merits this perception?”

“Why does my presence, dear Lady Louisa, distress you?”---and the monster pretended to look tender. ---“Your brother, my dear madam, may be too partial to me---but do not suppose I wish to see you distressed---you gave both Lord Wilton and myself, hopes, your repugnance to our wishes, would have been at an end, when you requested a temporary cessation of my addresses. What ought I to expect, but

“but that you will, (without reluctance) crown my wishes; when the time you solicited shall be past.”

“Why then am I disturbed before that time?----why is my happiness broke in upon, before the expiration of the respite I was indulged with?”

“Respite, Lady Louisa!”—and he glowed with vexation—“I would not be vain, but I flatter myself, my addressees——”

“Your addressees, Sir William, have made me wretched--have deprived me of a dear brother’s regard--will involve a family, you pretend a friendship for, in confusion and unhappiness!”

“ In a word, Sir, your perseverance
“ may make me, to the last degree
“ miserable ; but can never be pro-
“ ductive of success to yourself.”

“ Be generous Sir William, con-
“ ciliate to me again the affections of a
“ brother which you have alienated,
“ and by relinquishing me, put it in
“ my power, at least, to esteem you.”

“ I see my lady, too plainly, the
“ reason of your dislike to me—You
“ have an attachment in some other
“ place, where you are less severe—
“ but have a care madam, I am not
“ to be affronted with impunity ; and
“ if you continue to irritate me, by
“ the contempt you think proper at
“ present

“ present to treat me with ; you may
 “ perhaps (on your brother’s account,
 “ though not on mine) too late re-
 “ pent, the obstinacy of your refusal.

“ I cannot but tremble for my
 “ brother, if he is in the power of a
 “ man, who I fear, will not scruple
 “ taking every ungenerous advantage.
 “ —But Lord Wilton was never au-
 “ thorised by my parents, to force
 “ me into a marriage, contrary to my
 “ sentiments and inclinations.”

“ Do me at least this favour, Lady
 “ Louisa, that I may be able to ac-
 “ count to your brother, for your be-
 “ haviour to me.---Am I unfortunate-
 “ ly disapproved of, from any disa-
 greeable

“ greeable qualities in my person, or
 “ disposition-- or does it proceed from
 “ your prepossession in favour of any
 “ other ?

“ These are questions, I am under
 “ no necessity to answer---but your
 “ threatenings, my brother's unkind-
 “ nefs, and my regard to truth,
 “ oblige me to declare myself expli-
 “ citly.---I ever disliked your morals
 “ and conduct---your character has
 “ not contributed to place you in a
 “ more favourable light---and I will
 “ not disguise it to you, that my
 “ heart is in the possession of a gentle-
 “ man, whose great worth, will pre-
 “ vent any disgrace being thrown
 upon

“upon you, by his having the preference in my esteem.”

This was too severe I confess, it was not prudent, but so oppressed, so injuriously intreated; what could I say, how could I act.

Sir William bit his lips—frowned—stamped several times cross the room in the most violent rage, and muttering some threats which I could not understand retired.

My passion,—my spirits, which till then had supported me, subsided, and I sunk upon a sofa dissolved in tears!—lost in apprehensions for the safety of Lord Wilton, and the happiness of myself.

If my brother can so far forgive my refusal of Morden as to favour me with a conference ; I am determined to avow my attachment to Cooper.

I have told all the affair to his sister, Lady Wilton, who seems still more unhappy, now she knows my abhorrence of this hated match, has been confirmed by my love for her brother.

Time alone can discover to us, which way the precipice lies, that we so much dread ; and I have a presentiment it is near at hand.—There can scarce more unhappiness flow, from a certainty of misfortune ; than I experience, from the dreadful suspense I am involved in.

Adieu,

The FATAL DECEPTION.

89

Adieu, my worthy my best Eliza,
put up your most fervent prayers for
your friend; from so good so virtu-
ous a heart, they surely cannot be
unavailing, may your happiness only
terminate with life.

LOUISA WILTON.

From

From the same, to the same.

HOW kind my friends attention !
Lambert arrived last night,—and I
flatter myself with his most essential
services, in bringing about a recon-
ciliation with Lord Wilton.

I have not yet seen my brother,
having never been out of my room,
since the eclaircissement with Morden ;

no

no wonder I am indisposed,—I am not only unhappy myself, but find myself the innocent occasion, of distress to others.

Lady Wilton is not less at ease than I am, has not fewer apprehensions yet we vainly endeavour, to hide the knowledge of it from each other.

Miss Lambert has never left me since my illness, and by the generous effusion of her sorrow, convinces me more and more of the goodness of her heart and the delicacy of her sensibility.

Poor Nancy Cooper, seems little less concerned, and my sisters dare not appear to interest themselves too deeply in my distress, lest Lord Wilton should

should suspect they countenance my disobedience as he calls it.

Mr. Lambert after he had seen my brother, (who gave him a most affectionate reception,) desired leave to attend his sister, he had been before made acquainted by Charlotte, that she was constantly with me.—That girl distracts me: she is lost in a path, whose entrance is strewn with roses, too thick for her yet, to feel the thorns concealed under them.

After Lambert had most affectionately embraced his sister,—— “I come
 “ my lady, to tender you every assistance in my power, I come at
 “ the request of your friend, and in
 “ the service of mine.—Lord Wilton
 “ is at present displeased, but I dare
 say

“ say he will not always be unrea-
 “ sonable, or irreconcilable : and I have
 “ not much doubt, that I shall be
 “ the happy instrument, of making
 “ my friend happy, and of relieving
 “ your ladyship, from unworthy per-
 “ secutions”—I bowed.

My best brother ! said Lucy, (throw-
 ing her arm cross his neck) how proud
 I am of my brother !—I forgot to
 mention to you before, that old Mr.
 Cooper and Mrs Bruce have been
 gone some days past to Stretton-Green,
 his sister (at our request) remaining
 with us—Lambert is much mended
 in appearance, and his cheeks were
 vermilion itself, upon his sisters praises ;
 he sighed and said, “ I can never
 “ come nearer happiness, then when
 “ I am endeavouring to procure it
 “ for

“ for my friends”—he seemed discomposed, and turned from us to the window ! recovering himself,—“Lady
 “ Louisa, how do you intend to act,
 “ if Lord Wilton wishes to see you,
 “ do you intend to make him acquainted
 “ ed with your preposition in favour
 “ of my friend ?

Certainly Sir ! I had long since prevented every appearance of duplicity in my conduct, had my fears not been alarmed, for Mr. Cooper and my sister Wilton.

“ Nobly resolved Lady Louisa !
 “ far am I from disapproving so laudable a measure ; what I would only
 “ presume to advise is, that we may
 “ endeavour to take advantage of
 “ the most favourable opportunity”

Lady

Lady Wilton seems more assured of a happy issue to the affair, since Lambert's arrival;—he is at present gone with my Lord to the rooms, and returns to sup at our hotel;—his melancholy seems less violent, though I cannot help thinking it, more firmly established.

I know not why I should have such a foreboding, but I think that young man (worthy as he is, affluent in circumstances, and adored by his friends,) is nevertheless, not marked out by providence for happiness;---would to God my conjectures may prove false.

Whatever way my own difficulties terminate let me have the satisfaction of knowing you are happy.
---Your mother's good opinion of Mr.

Fea-

Featherstone, is confirmed by the attachment of his friends, and the general tenor of his conduct;—the candid avowal of his past indiscretions, ought I think to give you the strongest assurances he will avoid them for the future.

Gallantry in youth, according to circumstances, is more, or less culpable;—a good heart may be hurried into the commission, of an unwarrantable action, yet will feel the recollection of it with contrition, and endeavour to atone for the offence;—but I would as soon take a distressed highwayman to my husband, as a professed libertine;—and I really think the former the worthier man.

Let not a thought of your Louisa, occasion Mr. Featherstone an additional

tional sigh;---your mother is anxious in his favour, and if you will take my advice, when in your power, you cannot too soon make an honest man happy,

your ever affectionate

LOUISA WILTON.

VOL. II.

F

JAMES

while I consider you well advanced in the road of happiness, from that very deserving girl's sentiments of you, it gives me abundant pleasure to hope

JAMES LAMBERT.

ence in his favour, without any intervention to your address.

J. FEATHERSTONE.

the Wilson family, (as we expected) in much confusion;—I had an interview with Lady Louisa, and said every thing I could think of to relieve her

Bath,

CONFORMABLE to the request of my friend, I lost no time in repairing to Bath, and exerted myself more zealously indeed, from a reflection of the warmth and sincerity, of Miss Egerton's friendship for Lady Louisa; while

while I consider you well advanced in the road of happiness, from that very deserving girl's sentiments of you, it gives me abundant pleasure, to hope our friend Cooper may be effectually served, by the exertion of my influence in his favour, without any interruption to your addresses.

Upon my arrival at Bath, I found the Wilton family, (as we expected) in much confusion ;—I had an interview with Lady Louisa, and said every thing I could think of, to relieve her mind, and flatter her wishes ;—though I fear more from Lord Wilton's obstinacy, and his connection with Morden, than I think proper to confess. — She is determined, the very first favourable opportunity which offers, to declare to her brother, the

attachment she has long felt for our friend William, a measure, which I apprehend will irritate my Lord to a great degree;—but however disagreeable the expedient, it now becomes absolutely necessary.

Lord Wilton does me the honour, to assure me of his friendship and regard;—I shall endeavour to soften his resentment against Cooper; and may perhaps be a means of preventing any improper treatment being offered to Lady Louisa.

Will. is much better cross the channel, his presence at this conjuncture, would only be inflammatory;—her ladyship has communicated to me her design of sheltering herself at Mrs. Egerton's, should my Lord be implacable;

cable;—I wish it was well over with all my heart.

Partial as I am, and fond of my sister to an extreme;—I cannot without much concern, observe her tenderness and sensibility so strongly engaged, on Lady Louisa's account;—she has scarce had sufficient strength of constitution, to bear up against the late alarms and apprehensions, which she has suffered herself.

I am sorry Mrs. Bruce is gone to the Green, though the absence of Mr. Cooper (who accompanied her) ought not to be regretted;—he perhaps, through a peculiar delicacy, might be more offended than even Lord Wilton, with his son,

102 The FATAL DECEPTION.

Expect accounts when the mine is sprung, and of its consequences;—I have wrote to Ireland, and made a point, that Cooper depends upon my friendship, and continues where he is, till his presence shall be more necessary;—as this is also strongly inforced by Lady Louisa,, I have no fear of his daring to act in opposition to her request, were he inclined to pay but little attention to mine.

The Ladies have not been in public since the declared *fracas* with Morden.—My Lord dragged me to the rooms last night, in a situation of mind little capable of being amused.

That wretch Morden, though he behaved with coolness to Lord Wilton, was officiously civil to me, paid me
some

some impertinent compliments on my sister's beauty and accomplishments, and very assiduously solicited my acquaintance.

Not inclined to dissemble, I very candidly told him, that till I was confident he had generously withdrawn his pretensions, from a very deserving Lady, who had given him her definitive answer,) and was a good deal persecuted on his account) he could have no reason to expect it.

His answer was, he could be glad of my acquaintance, but if I knew myself the bar, to his success with Lady Louisa, his overtures were indeed improper, and by wishing him to resign his claim to her Ladyship, he could not but admire the modesty

of my proposal, which was of course as advantageous to my safety, as my love.

“ The impertinence, Sir William, of your insinuation, deserves no answer;—but let not your resentment against that Lady, for declining your addresses, induce you to do her any injustice;—ascribe her want of esteem for you, to its true cause, to your own want of merit to attract it;—and though I disclaim the honour, of possessing more than Lady Louisa’s friendship, you, Sir William, will never find any apprehensions of my personal safety, prevent my exerting every effort in my power, in support of persecuted innocence.”

Lord

Lord Wilton did not seem well pleased with my defending his sister, so warmly against Morden;—but went to him, and after a short conference; Morden came to me, said, “he hoped
“ I did not suppose he had the smallest intention to affront me;—that
“ we were perhaps both too warm; he
“ was sorry if heat of temper, had
“ hurried him, into any unguarded
“ expression; but the man could not
“ be supposed to be very much at
“ ease, who was in danger of losing
“ Lady Louisa Wilton.”

No more passed, and I have not seen him since;---he was a long time with Lord Wilton this morning, and they afterwards went out together; I find he did not even desire to see Louisa.

Since Lord Wilton's return, he appears in exceeding bad temper with every one round him:---even the natural complaisance, and good nature of Lady Wilton can scarce procure a civil expression.

This worthy Family shall be relieved, from the unhappiness they at present labour under; (I fear, by the weakness of one party, and the villainy of another;)---if there is the smallest clew to develope the mystery.

I have a commission for you to execute, which I beg you will lose no time in doing;---your design of introducing me to ***** Court, I dare say was to amuse, for the time perhaps it might, but the source of my discontent, lies too deep to be effectually

really relieved, by such an application.

Pleasure and dissipation, where the mind does not enjoy them, serve but to make our reflections more severe; I left my snuff-box, my sister's portrait is inclosed in it, it is unnecessary to mention to you, the impropriety of its continuance in that place. — May every happiness, attend Miss Egerton and yourself.

When am I to salute Mrs. Featherstone? — she is above disguise, and will not, I dare say, torture you with ridiculous delays. — My compliments attend the good old Lady. — Adieu, till to-morrow; I remain one of the sincerest of your friends,

JAMES LAMBERT.

F 6

From

gloomy, but at length introduced the subject, which I doubt not procured me the honour of his company; --- The conversation continued but with the rib and I sat in hopes things will begin to wear a more favourable appearance.

Dear Featherstone,

AS these troublesome people of the faculty will prescribe, however ignorant they may be of the disorder; I am pestered to death!--one of their simplest prescriptions, I have since my arrival, condescended to follow, viz. riding out every day;--my Lord sent me word this morning, he would, if I pleased, accompany me;—his Lordship continued for some time very gloomy,

gloomy, but at length introduced the subject, which I doubt not procured me the honour of his company;--- The conversation terminated but with the ride;---and I am in hopes, things will begin to wear a more favourable appearance.

He was at first to the greatest degree incensed, by Lady Louisa's opposition to his inclination, and very artfully, (though with an apparent frankness) questioned me about the inducement I could possibly have, to interest myself so warmly in favour of his sister, having heard me declare the other night, that friendship was my only motive.——“ He had the greatest opinion of my honour, and the regard I had shewn for himself and family; or he should have supposed

110 The FATAL DECEPTION.

“posed himself indispensibly bound
“to have requested an explanation
“at the instant”.

Morden has I find acquainted him, that Louisa avowed her partiality for another ! he begged me, if by any means I knew, or even suspected who was the object of her regard, I would discover it to him, that he might take proper measures, to prevent his family being dishonoured, by an improper alliance : I took advantage of this last expression, and demanded in my turn, if, free from partiality, he could from his soul deem Sir William Morden's alliance with his sister, an honourable one.

Sir William might have lived a little too free ; but he was a man of family,

family, considerable fortune, and great connections, was the reply.—I represented the very different character he bore in the world, viz. that he not only had lived free, but continued at the present hour, one of the most vicious men of the age!—by much the more dangerous, as he had generally address to disguise his passions; the gratification of which solely depended upon such a management.

With respect to his large fortune, it was universally known he was a notorious gamester, and the combination of a set of men like himself, or a few nights bad run, might reduce him to beggary.—As to his connections, they were the consequent appendage of his estate; and that if his dependants were not more actuated by fear than

than regard to his person, he would not be able to produce ten votes for a county representative.

I had a sister (I continued,) whom I dearly loved, and rather than dispose of her to one like Morden, I would countenance the man of her choice, though she took him from the plow, if his principles were uncorrupted.

He demanded, if upon my honour I did, or did not know his sister's attachment? I answered in the affirmative, but I was not at liberty to discover it to him, that it was a choice worthy Lady Louisa's prudence, and good sense! a choice, that promised a countenance of real felicity, and was no discredit to her rank and family.

“Damn

“Damn that Will. Cooper! Mor-
 den’s conjecture was right:—I am
 “confirmed in it by the eagerness
 “with which you defend the object
 “of my sister’s infatuation, and my re-
 “sultment”.

“Suppose it was Cooper my Lord!
 “what could be your objection, ex-
 “cept in fortune?—is there a king-
 “dom, that would disdain his alliance?
 “his sister Lady Wilton, (valuable
 “as she is,) is not more deserving
 “your Lordship’s tenderness, than
 “her brother is worthy Lady Louisa’s
 “good opinion!”

“The warmth of your friendship,
 “Mr. Lambert, does you credit;
 “but in a point of this consequence,
 “I must be suffered to judge for my-
 “self:

“ self :—If Mr. Cooper has engaged
“ my sister’s affections, he has beha-
“ ved to me with ingratitude,—I
“ boast not of having served him,
“ or of my intentions to have con-
“ tinued to do so ; but he could not
“ be ignorant of the present narrow-
“ ness of his own circumstances, or
“ of my engagement with Sir William,
“ and I will (in confidence to you,
“ Lambert,) acquaint you, that if
“ my sister obstinately persists in her
“ refusal of Morden, my inevitable
“ ruin is the immediate consequence :
“ on Lady Wilton’s account, let not
“ your friend, now no longer mine,
“ ever see me”.

I requested, as he had favoured me
with so much of his confidence, he
would give me a hint of the nature
and

and extent of his engagement to Sir William, that my friendship for Cooper was unlimited, and I was glad of the opportunity to assure his Lordship, if the means of serving him, lay within the compass of my fortune, it should not be my fault if he was not happy, in the recovery of his Lordship's friendship, and the possession of Lady Louisa.

I endeavoured to point out the impropriety of his persisting in the design of sacrificing his sister to Morden.—How severely his conduct would be condemned, by the rational part of the world; and what reason he would ever have to consider himself, as the destroyer of Lady Louisa's happiness.

I added,

I added, I was extremely concerned for the sake of the whole family, that he had been rash enough to enter into obligations, where his sister's happiness was so materially concerned, and where (by her father's will) I understood her consent, was so essentially necessary, that from her Ladyship's generosity, humanity, and love for his Lordship, it was to be supposed, she would submit to a diminution in her fortune, if that could contribute to accommodate matters, betwixt him and Morden: but it was to the last degree unreasonable, to desire her to fulfil any engagement of his Lordship's, at the expence of her eternal quiet.

My Lord paid me many compliments upon the uncommon, the exalted

alted instance, (as he was pleased to call it) of my regard to Cooper :—" he
 " wished it was in his power to re-
 " gulate his conduct, agreeable to
 " my sentiments, and the tenderness
 " he really felt for his sister :—but
 " it was impossible! nothing could
 " extricate him from the difficulties,
 " in which he had involved himself,
 " but her acquiescence."

I obtained his promise that he would
 not attempt any violent measures,
 and would allow Lady Louisa some
 days yet, previous to her final deter-
 mination.

The active part I am obliged to
 take in this disagreeable business, which
 makes so many of the family unhappy,
 does not give me time to indulge
 myself,

118 The FATAL DECEPTION.

myself, in the retirement I so much wish for.

Contentment is the only object I have in view, yet how difficult must be the attainment of that, when happiness is cut off from my hopes.

yours,

JAMES LAMBERT.

Mis

myself in the retirement I so much
wish for.

Contentment is the only object I
have in view, yet how difficult must
be the task. Miss EGERTON,
kindness is cut off from my hopes.

T O

Lady LOUISA WILTON,

“**T**HE day! my beloved daugh-
“ter”——The day! my enchanting
“Miss Egerton”——echoed from one
to the other——“Not before the
“day of judgment shall it be, if I am
“to be thus disturbed”——My mo-
ther

ther started!—Poor Featherstone
turned pale ———

“ Why does my mother thus perse-
“ cute me? why am I thus hurried
“ Sir?”—“ Persecute my Eliza! un-
“ kind girl—have you not consented,
“ (I fondly hoped) without the small-
“ est repugnance to become his wife?”
’tis even so Louisa!—“ And can my
“ daughter call her mother’s anxious
“ wishes for her happiness, persecu-
“ tion?”—Oh, spare me dear madam!
“ I cannot bear your frown—to what
“ am I reduced? Featherstone, plead
“ for me, solicit my forgiveness from
“ the best of parents; and I’ll pro-
“ mise to be good—very good—but
“ let me not be teized.”—“ My
“ charming

“ charming Eliza, I can have no will
 “ but yours !---You must madam for-
 “ give so sweet an offender, since you
 “ see she obliges me to take part,
 “ even against myself---on her gene-
 “ rosity let us rest our hopes.”---

Thank you friend, thought I, it may
 be better for you---but the dear lady
 was not to be put off so---could you
 have supposed that she was really an-
 gry, Louisa? absolutely so---“ De-
 “ pend not, Mr. Featherstone, (says
 “ she, drawing up her mouth) on the
 “ generosity of a girl, who can for a
 “ ment forget the affection, the ma-
 “ ternal marks of indulgence she has
 “ received from a fond parent ! I ever
 “ esteemed her ingenuous, incapable
 “ of disguise, and above being child-

“ ishly petulant---how have I been
“ deceived?”

“ Ah madam ! (throwing myself at
“ her feet) be not so cruel in your ex-
“ pressions---I am not---I will not be
“ petulant ! forgive your child ! I
“ would die rather than offend you---
“ here is my hand---dispose of it when
“ and to whom you please.

“ Bless my Eliza, (says my mother)
“ and next Thursday, let me petition
“ heaven’s protection for my daugh-
“ ter Featherstone.

I did not recover my surprise, (at
being tricked into so early a time) be-
fore the good woman left my lord and
master

master elect at liberty, to entertain me with his raptures and gratitude, while she retired, I dare say, to put up ejaculations for Mrs. Featherstone.

The writings have been finished two or three days, and you see they were determined to lose no time; though I perceive from Featherstone's uncommon satisfaction, that I have drawn myself into the scrape, by ridiculously vexing my mother, and then simply purchasing her forgiveness so extravagantly.—I might certainly have protracted it (by proper management) for some time, and yet have contrived, to have kept them both in humour.

Well *l'affair est fait*—and now my Louisa, consider this as the last letter

you will ever receive from your Eliza Egerton, spinster! and prepare to expect occasionally, my matronly advice for the future regulation of your conduct.---You will, at least, reap an advantage from my bondage.---There is no comparison between the abilities of a wife, and a simple virgin in the management of an amour---you know you may command my best services.

Seriously, I am not displeased, the grand affair is fixed.—The more I know of Featherstone, the more I esteem him—he recommends himself more to me, by the notice, the attention he pays to the friends I regard, than by any fulsome, ridiculous compliments or addresses to myself---he did

The FATAL DECEPTION. 125

did not displease me by a request, that I would in his name make to you, should your situation grow more uneasy, by Lord Wilton's horrid connection with Morden.

He has taken an elegant furnished house, in St. James's Square, to which we go on Friday, the day after this dreaded Thursday---and he earnestly hopes you will favour his dearly beloved with your company.---This is his first request to you, and I shall insist upon it that you do not deny him. You see I have been able to refuse him nothing.---If instead of Louisa Wilton, you could contrive for Will. Cooper to bring his wife with him---dearly as I love the Wiltons, I should give

Louisa Cooper the preference. Where is that fellow, is he asleep? that he has so little to do in a drama, where he ought to be the hero of the piece.

Let a billet from you fetch him from Ireland---throw yourself into his arms! away to friendly North-Britain, where "Love stricken maidens, sigh
"no longer in vain" and leave Lord Wilton to finish his engagement with Morden, the best way he can --- You ought by all the rules of novel and romance, to add one more couple to the Scot's register.

As my good man has made no scruple of communicating to me, the connection which subsisted, between
him,

him, and a very deserving young woman, who I mentioned to you in a former letter---I have taken the liberty of writing to her.---Mr. Featherstone had allowed her a settlement paid annually---a mode that I disapproved of, as it subjected her to many inconveniences in the receipt of it.

I take no merit to myself, in requesting Mr. Featherstone to revoke the settlement, and transfer two thousand pounds (Bank stock) to her, to dispose of as she pleases---from the instances I have heard of her conduct, I doubt not her future prudence.

The real value of her former allowance, (as it was only for life) was not

more, Mr. Featherstone says, than one thousand pounds value---the additional sum, will enable her to live more at ease; and perhaps be the means of procuring her some valuable and worthy connection.

I would not wish to enter into a state, which I hope will prove a happy one, with the reflection that a woman, who perhaps was, (except one unguarded moment) as unimpeachable as myself; yet should be miserable from the same cause, that constituted my felicity.

I will some time or other, shew you her answer, which I expect in a few days.---And my Louisa, I am sure
believes

The FATAL DECEPTION. 129

believes me, when I say, it will give me the utmost pleasure, if the poor girl will put it into my power, to be of further service to her.

Once more, my dear Louisa, and for the last time, I conclude myself,

Yours,

ELIZA EGERTON.

E. E.

Lady

Lady LOUISA WILTON,

Miss EGERTON.

MR. LAMBERT, to whom I am most particularly obliged, has wrote to Mr. Cooper, to intreat his continuance in Ireland, till this storm is over blown---I wrote some time since, to the same effect---but we are
astonished

astonished to have received no answer. Illness I hope in God, is not the occasion of it!—inconstancy I dread not!—Mr. Lambert and my brother, have had a very long conversation—As my lord suspected poor Cooper, Mr. Lambert thought it most proper to discover the secret, and it has saved me a great deal of confusion and distress.

My lord, he said, received the account of it more patiently than he could have expected---though he gave him very little hopes of his ever receding from this terrible engagement.

Morden has never been here since I wrote; and my brother repeated to Lambert, he no longer esteemed me a

sister, than while I continued to act, as he would wish and recommend to me. He is very unkind, my dear, and I seriously think of accepting the asylum so friendly offered, by Mr. Featherstone and you.

Lady Wilton is very unhappy—my sisters---Miss Lambert---all my friends are so; they are too susceptible, not to partake the distress I feel, at my lord's inhuman behaviour to me---I am still more concerned, as my Lady Wilton's present situation requires she should be kept free from disturbance and inquietude.

Old Mr. Cooper and Mrs. Bruce, have come back from Stretton Green, finding

finding Mr. Lambert returned to Bath. They purpose in a few days, I believe, to set out for Devonshire; and my lord it seems, did not even give the slightest intimation that he desired their farther continuance—Lucy I fancy goes with them, though Mr. Lambert desired Mrs. Bruce and her to accompany him into Berkshire.

Charlotte's unhappy partiality for Lambert, gains ground every day—she has declared to me, she never can love any man but him—he has lately treated her with more than usual attention, I fear because he is no longer ignorant of her attachment to him; and humanity obliges him to pity the effects of an unfortunate passion, it is

not in his power to return--would to heaven it were possible! but I despair of it.

Some unknown object, certainly engrosses all his tenderness.--The kindness of his behaviour to her, proceeds merely from compassion--a few days now will divide them, and absence, I hope, restore her usual peace of mind; the nearer our separation approaches, I can perceive her distress increases.

I surprised her a while since in her room, in the most affecting situation --She did not attempt to suppress her emotion, but threw her arms round me, reclined her head on my bosom,
and

and with tears streaming from her lovely eyes, cried, "Pity me, my dearest sister! excuse my weakness, and enable me to bear with resignation a separation from"——

Grief choaked her utterance!----
 "My dearest Charlotte! consider my beloved sister; the impropriety of giving way to a passion, when you have not the smallest reason to expect a return---Mr. Lambert esteems you, my dear, but accustom yourself to believe he loves another---that I am convinced is the case! how indecent then, how imprudent; my dear Charlotte, is your conduct?"

She

She promised, she would endeavour to follow my directions, and if possible try to forget him. How much easier, my dear Eliza, the promise than the performance---where there is a reciprocal affection, it is seldom free from uneasiness---but a hopeless passion! must be misery indeed.

Sir John Thornhill, who I mentioned to you some time since, has applied to Lambert and his aunt, for liberty to pay his addresses to Lucy---Mrs. Bruce gave him a favourable reception--Mr. Lambert I thought a very indifferent one; which I am surprized at, as it would be every way an unexceptionable match---he is a man of character, an agreeable man, and possessed

possessed of an affluent fortune---Mr. Lambert told him, he could have no objection to his alliance; but his sister had lately gone through much distress---was very far from being in health---and that he would not venture even to hint to her, any application of such a nature---least her love and regard for him, as a brother (which he had reason to suppose was very great) might prompt her to return an answer, without sufficiently consulting her own inclination.

Sir John however, obtained his permission to visit in the family, and endeavour to render himself worthy of her good opinion.----What will be Lucy's sentiments about it, I cannot yet

yet guess---she appears reserved in her disposition, though of the most enchanting manners, and sweetness of temper.

My sister Wilton seems to possess the most of her confidence; yet she shews that preference so agreeably, we cannot be offended---indeed we love our sister too sincerely, to repine at any thing, otherwise we should consider Lucy's partiality, in no very trifling estimation.

Nancy Cooper is the only person in our family entirely herself.---Old Mr. Cooper is uneasy, that Mr. Lambert is so little inclined to give him his company---though whenever they are together, he behaves to him with the greatest respect and affection; but
except

except when he is with his sister, or civility requires him to pay any little attention to us, he is generally alone.

I rack my invention continually, to penetrate into the occasion of his unaccountable inclination for solitude---but in vain---it cannot however, shade his agreeable qualities, and seems rather an incentive to the natural generosity of his disposition.

He has lately made a present of some very elegant, and expensive toys to all the ladies of our party, which he appropriated with great judgment to our different tastes and inclinations.

But we were yesterday by mere accident acquainted with a circumstance that deserves

serves the highest encomiums.--In one of his solitary rambles, he had taken notice of a well looking elderly man, at work upon the public roads: there appeared to be a dejection in his countenance we seldom observe in poor people of that class: Lambert observed, he endeavoured to select himself, from his fellow labourers, with a view, it is probable, to ruminate without disturbance upon his misfortunes.

Lambert, whose melancholy turn of mind, makes him more susceptible of feeling for the least appearance of distress, accosted him, and after a few questions to which he got very civil, but unsatisfactory answers, he demanded if he had always been accustomed to labour, as he appeared

to be too infirm, to undergo the hardship of the business, he was then about.

The poor creature wiping away a starting tear, which he endeavoured to conceal! said, “ to be sure he was
 “ not yet inured to labour, but
 “ custom would make it easier to
 “ him, that he trusted in the mercy
 “ of the Divine Power, for sufficient
 “ health to enable him to provide that
 “ pittance the wants of a numerous and
 “ unhappy family required from him.
 “ Plenty and ease were not allotted
 “ to all, and it was a great comfort to the distressed, when they
 “ had not to attribute their misfortunes to their own guilt or imprudence ;—but could patiently resign themselves, to the judgments
 of

“ of the almighty, and endeavour, to
 “ the best of their abilities, to fulfil
 “ those duty’s nature demanded from
 “ them: he had bread to procure for
 “ an unfortunate wife, and five chil-
 “ dren; and blessed God he was still
 “ able to keep them from absolute
 “ starving”.

I need not attempt to describe how
 Lambert was affected, nor do I think
 I have occasion to tell you, what was
 the consequence.—He obtained the
 poor man’s name, and a direction to his
 house, (hovel I should have said,) for as
 Lambert has since described it, even that
 name is better than it deserved: upon
 enquiry, he found he had been a repu-
 table farmer in the neighbourhood, where
 he had for many years supported a most
 worthy character.—That many losses
 and

and misfortunes in his business, together with possessing a heart too open to the wants of the indigent, had brought him to very low circumstances.

He had however such credit, that he could have continued his farm, but his landlord, (a wretch of the most obdurate principles, and whom Heaven had cursed with wealth and power, to be a scourge to mankind;) had seized upon his stock,—fold his goods even to his very bed, and turned him and his family adrift to beggary and ruin.

Lambert amply relieved their distresses:—sent them every necessary, cloaths, money, and provision:—has wrote to Mr. Wilson, to fix him in the

the first farm, vacant upon his estate. —And until such a vacancy may happen, he purposes to send, this now happy family, to Stretton-Green, with directions to Wilson, to let them want for nothing.

I will only beg your patience to inform you, how we came by the knowledge of this affair.—A beautiful girl, about sixteen rushed into the room while we were at breakfast this morning, and falling down upon her knees before Lambert, her hands lifted up, imploring blessings upon his head ! begged permission for her mother, and the rest of their family, which he had saved from despair, to be permitted to pay their gratitude and duty.

He retired into the next room, not very well pleased I believe, at
being

being discovered: though in so laudable an action, where the scene was (he has acknowledged,) affecting beyond description.

How great a blessing is it my dear Eliza, to have the power of indulging our benevolence in favour of deserving objects,—'tis one of the greatest pleasures, I should conceive the rich might enjoy:—but alas, how few in this age ever heard of the word or conceived its meaning,---you are never forgot by your most sincerely affectionate,

LOUISA WILTON.

VOL. II.

H

James

JAMES LAMBERT,

T O

Mr. WILSON, STRETTON GREEN.

THIS will be delivered to you by a very worthy, though a very poor man;—I have had the good fortune to meet with him, and am thankful that my situation enables me, to repair his misfortunes.

He

He was a farmer in Somersets-
shire, much respected for his abilities
in the profession, more for his innate
goodness and humanity.—You know
experimentally, he is not the first who
has suffered, too freely for a charitable
disposition.

This however, which a narrow mind-
ed, selfish churl, would call impru-
dence:—will not be his smallest re-
commendation to you:—the great li-
berality of a generous mind, may by
proper management, be reduced with-
in the bounds of discretion;—to find
a covetous man, capable of doing a
good action, (without some prospect of
benefit, arising to himself) is impossible.

Benson's family consists of his wife,
himself, three sons, and two daughters;

the four youngest, accompany the father and mother;—upon their arrival I have only to wish you to indulge your own natural sensibility of heart, in the care of them.

There may be conveniencies made in the mansion, for their accomodation for a little time, without any inconvenience to us.—The first farm vacant in the manor, on which he can decently support himself and family, let him be fixed, and as I have lived much within my fortune, since the death of my father made me the unwished for master of it;—I desire his farm may be completely stocked at my expence.

If he behaves well, which from his character at present, I cannot doubt; let

let the first years rent, be returned to him;—until such vacancy happen, I dare say, you will find him a useful assistant, by inspecting the workmen, labourers, &c.

I believe you have too good an opinion of me to suppose, the smallest degree of ostentation prompted me to be solicitous, in favour of these distressed unfortunates.—I purposed to have communicated my designs to none but you, from whom indeed it was impossible to hide it.

The heart-felt satisfaction I have enjoyed, has most amply repaid me, and honest Benson owes me nothing.—My intentions in favour of this now happy family, was (contrary to my wishes) discovered by the extremity of their

gratitude;—I receive praises that ly distress me, and pay a very indifferent compliment to the rest of mankind, if the little I have done can be esteemed so singular.

It has indeed had one good effect; if the indulgence of pity and benevolence, is so very extraordinary; it is highly probable the world may be led to judge uncharitably of my motives.—I seek not applause, but would not wish to have my good intentions, misconstrued.

The uncommon beauty of the eldest daughter, (a girl of about fifteen or sixteen) may subject both myself and her to unworthy suppositions;—to avoid which, I have requested the Ladies, will some of them take her
under

under their protection ;—I did not apply to Mrs. Bruce or my sister, for the obvious reason, of our necessarily being so frequently together ;—they are all anxious to oblige me, but I yet know not to whom she will be allotted.

I am very unwillingly confined here by the calls of friendship :—the Wilton family are likely to be engaged in much confusion ;—the happiness of Will. Cooper is also materially concerned ;—and the advanced state of Lady Wilton's pregnancy, contributes to encrease our apprehensions of the event.

Old Mr. Cooper, Miss Nancy and Mr. Banks, purpose to set out in a day or two for Devonshire ;—Mrs.

152 THE FATAL DECEPTION.

Bruce and my sister, will either accompany them or accept of my escort, as soon as these very disagreeable affairs, now in agitation shall be terminated.

Featherstone's marriage with a very worthy young lady, (a Miss Egerton) is I suppose by this time concluded.— You told me, —“ my own mind, “ however distressed, would be relieved by the reflection of contributing to the happiness of my friends, “ and the assistance of the unfortunate.”—I have ever found it so: but am nevertheless unhappy.

Let my dependants, my dear Wilson, have reason to love me;—let the deserving meet with every indulgence

gence, and encouragement, and suffer not even the unworthy to feel severity of oppression. — Believe that I am, with the sincerest regards,

your affectionate friend,

JAMES LAMBERT.

TH 5

Lady

154 The FATAL DECEPTION.

and knowing my brother was engaged
out, I proposed a walk, if he would call
upon me about eight and escort me.

LADY LOUISA WILTON,

Miss E G E R T O N,

The continued hurry and very
late, and I began to be greatly alarm-
ed, notwithstanding my good opinion
of Lambert, when I

I WAS a good deal surprised to
day, when Lambert begged I would
indulge him, with a quarter of an hours
conversation this evening alone;—
though I thought his request a little
extraordinary, I promised him I would,
and

and knowing my brother was engaged out, I proposed a walk, if he would call upon me about eight and escort me.

He was punctual to the appointment, and managed so well, that our going out together was not taken notice of.—We very soon, and by the most private streets, got out of town.

He continued to hurry me on very fast, and I began to be greatly alarmed, notwithstanding my good opinion of Lambert, when I perceived he directed his steps to a little retired cottage, far from the road, or any other house.—I believe he saw my fears, as he instantly stopped, and taking hold of my hand, desired me to place that confidence in him, his very high

opinion of me in some measure deserved.

“ Be not alarmed, (said he) in
“ that cottage,” which we were then
very near, “ I flatter myself, you
“ will be convinced of the probity
“ of my intentions.”

Still more astonished, but no longer
hesitating; I suffered him to conduct
me into a little parlour, where, leav-
ing me for a moment, in a state of anx-
iety not to be expressed, guess my
astonishment, when I found at my
feet, the man for whom I have been
so much distressed; the worthiest of
men, my Eliza! my William;— I
know not at that instant what I felt:—
love, friendship, apprehension, agi-
tated me by turns;—and it was some
time

time before I could either answer his tender enquiries, or find words to express the happiness, his presence gave me.

We at length recollected the friend, to whom, we mutually were so much indebted, and his presence brought us to reason and ourselves.

Convinced of my Cooper's principles and delicacy, and of my own attachment to decency and virtue;—or how dangerous the indulgence, my dear Eliza, of receiving caresses from the man we love.—By the greatest accident, he had received an account that my marriage with Morden, was determined, if not celebrated.—He directly obtained leave of absence, took the first opportunity of a ship to Bristol,

tol, and arrived at Bath two days since;—he was so disguised that nothing but the prying eye of love could have discovered him.

At first, he says, he was determined to have appeared in public, trusting to the alteration in his dress;—but how happy am I he changed that resolution; I must have found him out, and a discovery of that sort in public might have been fatal.

He is very comfortably settled with a widow woman, in a situation where it is next to impossible he can be suspected:—he was anxious we would suffer him to avow his passion to Lord Wilton;—but we have prevailed upon him to avoid it for a few days, and with difficulty made him promise,
not

not to seek a meeting with Morden.
—Lambert is to see him every day;—
and I was obliged to assure him, if
things are not soon brought to extre-
mities; I will again give him the
meeting.

I have directed this to my friend,
Eliza Egerton;—but if Mrs. Eger-
ton has lost that affectionate daughter,
she will I hope forward my billet to a
Mrs. Featherstone, who will in future
I trust supply the loss to me.

I rejoice, my dear girl, at your hap-
py prospects, and will endeavour to
reconcile myself to your new appella-
tion;—though I shall never recollect
without pleasure, it was Eliza Egerton
with whom many years I have been
closely

closely and sincerely united by a friendship that will never diminish, but will be transferred with additional affection to Eliza Featherstone,

by her assured,

and most affectionate,

LOUISA WILTON.

Mrs. Featherstone, I have the pleasure to inform you that your letter of the 10th inst. has been received, and that I have the honor to acknowledge the same. I am very glad to hear that you are well, and that you are still in the enjoyment of good health. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours, &c.
Mrs. Featherstone.

The FATAL DECEPTION. 161

Mrs. FEATHERSTONE,

T O

Lady LOUISA WILTON

My dear Louisa,

MY adventures are effectually finished, dwindled into that household piece of furniture, a wife; and what is more extraordinary, determined to be an unfashionable one; — I shall now be quite at liberty, and more experimentally

mentally qualified to assist you in your distresses.

I will not attempt to entertain you, with the stupid account of our procession to church;—the raptures, or delicate behaviour of my, what shall I call him Louisa?—the splendour of my cloaths, jewels, &c. I refer you to the first novel you lay your hands upon, for the description!—only let me premise;—that being neither ashamed of myself, or my husband, (there's for you, my dear.) I acquitted myself, my mother says, with becoming prudence, and discretion:—I have been two days married and have not yet repented giving my hand, (I really believe) to a very honest fellow.

Let

Let me not forget to acquaint you, with an instance of my confidence in him, for which I expect to receive, at least I deserve his thanks.

You remember, I suppose, that formal troublesome cat, Lady Lamb, she came, three or four days since, to Grosvenor-square, in the most violent hurry, to give me a piece of intelligence about my John, which she said, she hoped would be sufficiently early, to prevent me sacrificing myself to a man of intrigue. — I stared you may be sure, and begged to know what she meant; — but well convinced she was a preevish, malevolent gossip; I determined not to give the least credit to her tale. — “ Sir Jacob, her sagacious, prudent, virtuous Sir Jacob, had seen
“ the

"the odious man go into a house of
 "bad fame."

I told her Ladyship, that Mr. Featherstone was master of his own actions; but possibly Sir Jacob might be deceived, if it was not so, I said people might be induced upon particular occasions, to go to bad places, on laudable purposes; that let it be as it would, I was sorry, on her Ladyship's account, to find Sir Jacob so well acquainted with them.

Enraged to find I paid no regard to her information, and offended with my insinuation, about her baronet, she could no longer hold her temper, but downright abused me;—she said I was a giddy, foolish girl; and should soon find to my cost the consequence
 of

of slighting her friendly intelligence; I very coolly reminded her, that propriety would not admit, of her Ladyship's playing the fool, any where but in her own house, and ringing the bell, left her to her own comfortable reflections.

Above suspecting Featherstone of weakness or deceit, and perfectly assured of his honour! I married him the next morning.—so much for Lady Lamb.—

Featherstone proposes with my approbation, to reconnoitre his estate in Yorkshire, where it seems he is much wanted, bring Cooper in your hand with you to town, and go with us, we shall form such a charming *partie quarre*! I shall be enchanted.

We

We have a new post coach building for the purpose, if you can't persuade your man to bring you off.— Put yourself under the protection of mine, who I will dispatch to you for that purpose, upon the slightest intimation of your concurrence.

My good man promises me, that your affairs will very soon take a favourable turn, but will not oblige me by communicating his reasons.— I shall not find it difficult, to forgive his reserve upon the occasion, if his opinion is well founded.

Your meeting with Cooper was a little romantic, I love Lambert for his good offices to you both, he is certainly very convenient, and it would be a pity, if business of his own was
to

to prevent him employing such useful talents, in favour of his friends.

It was fortunate for you that he made the third person, at your interview with Cooper! I began to tremble at the accounts of your love, friendship, and apprehension, to which add opportunity.—His tender enquiries, might have been too powerful, for my friends prudence or recollection, and I was very happy to find Lambert's presence, had brought you to reason, and yourselves, how much soever you may be convinced of his delicacy, and principles, if you object to our Yorkshire scheme, can't you get Banks to help you.

Parliament it seems are going to repeal that odious marriage act, and
and

and he may perhaps be permitted to say grace to you, without fear of transportation,—forgive my trifling, it is merely to keep up your spirits.

When I cease to be anxious for my friend, may I no longer live!—The felicity of your Eliza, very materially depends upon yours, but I will not give way to imaginary fears, and am strongly possessed with hopes, you will be as completely happy, as I should now be, was it not in the share I take, in every thing that affects my Louisa, this ought to convince you, that even Miss Egerton did not love you more sincerely than,

ELIZA FEATHERSTONE.

Mr.

Mr. L A M B E R T,

T O

Mr. F E A T H E R S T O N E.

WE have been in the greatest confusion!—Lord Wilton received letters from Ireland, that gave an account, of Cooper's return to England: incensed at this intelligence, he communicated it to old Mr. Cooper;

VOL. II.

I

with

with his reasons, for supposing it to be on his sister Lady Louisa's account.

I cannot forgive his Lordship's distressing that worthy old man, about an affair, where his interference I am convinced, will have no effect! — It has made him very unhappy, and will urge him perhaps to treat his son, with a severity he is far from deserving.

No one is blamable in my opinion but his Lordship, who, I do not scruple to declare has acted tyrannically and unjustly.

This moment a letter was brought me from old Mr. Cooper, inclosing one for his son! which I am to forward to him, as soon as I am informed

med where he is.—Mr. Cooper I believe, supposes me to be in the secret but very judiciously does not seem to do so, he is not violent in his expressions, about our friend Will's conduct, but declares to me, he is severely offended, and will never be reconciled to him, till he has recovered Lord Wilton's former friendship, and good opinion, a matter not a little difficult.

He intends to set out to-morrow morning, with his daughter Nancy, for Hartley-Point, and desires as soon as agreeable to us, that Mrs Bruce, my sister and, I will follow him.—I am just going to see Cooper, and will finish this upon my return, affairs now draw nigh upon a conclusion,

clusion, and one way or other, must speedily terminate.

Cooper was much affected, upon receipt of his father's letter ;—" he said, " allowing for the misrepresentation of " his apparent imprudence, it was more " affectionate, than he could have expected, but was from that very circumstance, more distressing".

He resolved to see Lord Wilton and his father, and I found it impossible to dissuade him.—He alledged, it was highly dishonourable to Lady Louisa, and his own character, to remain in concealment: all I could prevail upon him, was to suffer me to give his father notice of his design.

The

The old gentleman received him, with a mixture of affection, and displeasure on his countenance!—" I had a son" said he, " the pride of my life, do I now see him such as I wish, is he come to atone, for the unhappiness his imprudence has occasioned, in a family to whom we owe so many obligations."

Cooper replied, his passion for Lady Louisa, was involuntary, and too deeply fixed, ever to be erased! he intreated him to recollect, the great merit of of Lady Louisa, that her Ladyship was independant, and had condescended to acknowlege a reciprocal regard.—

" I set out-tomorrow morning," continued old Mr. Cooper, to Devonshire, let your promise, to relin-

“quish all thoughts of Lady Louisa
“and an immediate return to Ireland,
“reestablish you in my affection”—

I revere, I love my father, says Cooper, let him not cruelly expect impossibilities?—“I am not then to expect you will oblige me?”—I can never relinquish Lady Louisa, but with life.—farewell Mr. Lambert, replied his father, and was quitting the room, when Lady Louisa opened the door, and fell at his feet.—“Why does good Mr. Cooper wish to destroy me, “by an unjust severity to his son, “he is possessed of my tenderest affection, which he acquired without solicitation.”—attribute my attachment, to the effect of his merit alone, and blame yourself, for producing a son, so amiable and worthy to be loved.

Cease

Cease then, my dear Sir, to act in opposition to reason, and paternal affection, forgive your son, and kindly join in endeavouring to procure my Lord's concurrence.

The old man was melted by this unexpected address, Cooper and her Ladyship seized his hands, which kneeling they repeatedly kissed!—why my children do you require a thing from me too flattering to refuse, was I not well convinced, of Lord Wilton's absolute disinclination;—I joined very warmly in solicitating him to forgive Cooper, and at least to remain neuter, if he would not be prevailed upon to assist us, in an application to Lord Wilton.

We were just then interrupted by his Lordship! who starting at the sight

of Cooper, exclaimed! I requested your friend Sir, would prevail upon you to avoid me.—“Conscious, my Lord, no action has made me despicable, I cannot submit to avoid any man:”—You have used me ill Cooper, you have seduced the affections, of a foolish romantic girl, and interfered with all my prospects for her interest, and my own convenience, a charge you cannot deny, and for which, I expect most ample satisfaction.

Ah! cruel brother said Louisa! and instantly fainted.—Lord Wilton was alarmed! it was long before she came to herself: when she shewed some signs of recovery, old Mr. Cooper insisted upon it Will. should withdraw.

This

This at last he very reluctantly consented to.—Lord Wilton told him, he should expect him to account for his conduct, the first opportunity, and he wished for his father and sister, and their former friendship, that he might effectually exculpate himself.

Cooper bowed, and said he should at all times be ready to convince him, of the very sincere regard, he ever had entertained, for his Lordship and family.

Lady Louisa looked round for Cooper, and missing him, I was afraid of her relapsing into another fit, the tears streaming from her lovely eyes. Can my brother, can Lord Wilton, she said, inhumanly destroy his wife and sister, by taking

I 5 the

the life of a brother, and lover, justly esteemed, or by the sacrifice of his own?—that! it is probable, said my Lord, will not be the case, matters may very likely be accommodated, without coming to extremities:—but you have a certain means in your own power! give your hand to Sir William Morden, and I am Cooper's friend:—“Lead me dear Mr. Cooper,” giving her hand to him, “from the presence of a man, void of justice or humanity.”—

I had not patience, with the obduracy of his disposition!—Mr. Cooper has consented to postpone his intended journey for a few days: and I have promised Lady Louisa, to be constantly with Will. Cooper, that I may, (if possible) prevent a meeting, between
my

my Lord and him : which she seems, with some degree of reason, to be apprehensive of.

How many deserving people, may probable be made wretched by Lord Wilton's cursed connection with Mor-den ! a connection, that (without doubt) has sprung from deep indiscretion.

You are married, Lady Louisa tells me ! why am I to receive that intelligence, from any but yourself ?—It accounts however, for your neglecting a piece of business, I some time since requested you to do for me.—

My snuff-box, it may appear trifling, but to me is of serious consequence.—Neglect it no longer, if you value me ! the recollection of the place, were I

left it, reproaches me severely for my folly.—The partner you wished me to engage with that evening, I suppose has preserved it:—she appeared tender and sensible, I was not ungenteel to her, and dare swear she will return it, without repugnance:—I esteem it valuable.—May the happiness denied to me, be doubly experienced by my friend! I congratulate Mrs. Featherstone and you, very sincerely, and wish you may never know sorrow, but my name,

yours

most assuredly,

J. LAMBERT.

Mr.

Mr. FEATHERSTONE.

JAMES LAMBERT, Esq.

London.

THE happiness I experience in the possession of a valuable wife, you are reasonable enough to think, a tolerable apology, for not writing sooner, nothing is wanting to make my felicity complete, but a knowledge that my friends are equally fortunate.

You

You may have supposed, the commission you intrusted me with, easily executed; if so, you was egregiously mistaken;—a new married man, can find few opportunities to leave his bride, for the transaction of secret business;—and you will admit, the place where you required me to go, demanded on my own account, much circumspection.

The most fortunate events, frequently arise, from simple and trifling circumstances;—such I hope, the search of the box, will prove to Cooper.

I demanded a private audience of your nymph, and after the usual compliments, begged her to restore the box you had left behind you, if in her possession; or if not, that she would
employ

employ her address, to recover it for you, being a family one, containing the portrait of a very near relation, and that she might rest assured, you would amply recompence her for the trouble.

After some hesitation, she acknowledged to have found the box, but declared it was not then in her possession ;—she said she had taken no notice to the family of her having it, expecting you to call for it, and meaning to preserve it for you ;—but observing the secret spring, she discovered the picture, the beauty of which displeased her, and she determined to secret it.

She declared, the generosity of your disposition, had influenced her strongly
in

184 The FATAL DECEPTION.

in your favour, that she was struck with your great sensibility, and confessed she wished most fervently, to have made an impression, upon your heart.

You are a dangerous fellow Lambert, you see, when even in your gloomy situation of mind, you could inspire a courtesan with love ;--sensible of the difficulties I should have, if I suffered her to continue in an error, I told her, the object ought not to have given her uneasiness, as it was your sister.

“ Pray, Sir, is the lady at Bath ? ”—
she is :—“ an acquaintance of Lord
“ Wilton’s ? ”—exactly.---“ though I
“ cannot at present restore the picture,
“ I may possibly do some service to
your

THE FATAL DECEPTION. 185

“ your friend.”——I am all attention madam, explain yourself ;—if in your power to serve Mr. Lambert ; be certain he is incapable of ingratitude.

“ A gentleman, Sir, a Mr. Wallace, who visits in this house, has, contrary to my wish, attached himself to me ;---he by some means, got the box into his hand, and my curiosity being excited, I shewed him the picture, as he has a general acquaintance, wishing to be informed, what happy woman it represented, but I have not since been able to prevail upon him, either to give me the information I desired, or return me the box.---Endeavouring yesterday to get it from him, (in struggling I suppose) he dropt this letter, which I afterwards found :---from what you

“ you have told me, it appears of the
 “ greatest consequence to your friend,
 “ and I shall think myself happy in
 “ contributing every thing in my
 “ power, to the safety or service, of
 “ him and his connections.”

Opening the letter, I found it a
 compound of villainy from Morden
 to Wallace ;---pray, madam, may I
 ask, what situation Mr. Wallace is in,
 and if you know of any intimacy, be-
 tween him and Sir William Morden ?

“ Mr. Wallace, Sir, usually lives
 “ expensively, and I believe is depen-
 “ dant upon Sir William, as I have
 “ heard the latter, very angry at his
 “ extravagance.”——“ Be so kind,
 “ madam, as to give me a direction
 “ to

“to Mr. Wallace, and take no notice of what has passed betwixt us.

No time was lost, I found the gentleman at his chambers; and introduced myself by telling him, “I waited upon him, for a certain snuff-box of yours, which he had got into his possession, (I presumed with an intention to restore to the proper owner) he had the box, was his answer, but did not think himself authorized to part with it, till he was assured I had a right to demand it.

I only said, I could not be surprised to find him so scrupulous in restoring what he had obtained, in so very extraordinary a manner.—“Who are you, that take upon you to treat me, with so little ceremony?”

A

A Friend, Sir, to the virtuous distressed, an enemy to villainy, a detester of unworthy dependants, and their still more obnoxious principals;—in a word, Sir, I am Mr. Lambert's friend, a despiser of Sir William Morden, consequently not much inclined to have a better opinion of you, than your conduct deserves.

“ You must first convince me, Sir,
“ before I make any reply to such
“ impertinent insinuations, by what
“ authority you take upon you, to
“ use me so disrespectfully.”

“ Return me the box, you carried
“ off from ***** court, if you wish
“ to avoid a prosecution for felony.”
“ From what part of my conduct, do
“ you

“ you dare to make use of so illeberal
“ an expression ?”

“ The confident of Sir William
“ Morden, said I, who can be ac-
“ quainted with his villainy, and
“ scruple to assist in bringing him
“ to justice, and exposing him to
“ the world, deserves doth contempt
“ and punishment ;—do you know
“ this hand writing, Sir ? not giving
“ him time to recover himself, the
“ contents you are no stranger to ;—
“ Sir William Morden knows you,
“ Sir ; did you justly deserve the name
“ of gentleman ? durst he, profligate
“ as he is, communicate with so much
“ freedom, the infamy of his past con-
“ duct and the villainy of his future
“ intentions ?

“ You

" You appear a man of honour,"
 " Sir, (said Wallace) the dependance."
 " I am obliged to submit to, from
 " Sir William Morden, necessarily
 " obliges me to be privy to many of
 " his designs, which, though I may
 " not approve, I nevertheless cannot
 " prevent;—this ought I think to
 " preserve me from being treated with
 " so much severity."

" The man who with a good edu-
 " cation, and any knowledge of the
 " world, can prefer a vile abject state
 " of dependance, even to poverty,
 " with an irreproachable character, de-
 " serves neither our assistance or com-
 " passion."

" I am unfortunate, Sir, but not
 " a villain."—" The man who is vil-
 lains

“lainy’s abettor will seldom recieve
 “a softer appellation;—I shall be
 “glad to be deceived in my opinion,
 “but if your principles are not in-
 “tirely corrupted, by your communi-
 “cation with Sir William, the future
 “detestation of your past connec-
 “tion, will best prove your sincerity.”

He returned me the box, and begged I would permit him to wait upon me to-morrow, when, he said, he hoped to convince me, he was not so very culpable, as I supposed him.—He has promised most fervently not to take any measures in favour of Mor-den, but communicate to me every direction he receives from him.

I inclose you the letter, a letter, worth a million, as it fortunately explains

plains enough to convince Lord Wilton, of Sir William's baseness, which, together with the discoveries I expect to make from Wallace, will, I hope, preserve you all from the bad effects of his scandalous intentions. extricate my Lord, from this wretche's power, and enable him to do justice to the worth of our friend, and the tenderness of Lady Louisa.

My wife! I never supposed myself of half the consequence till now,---gives me so many careffes, for the service I have done our mutual friends, I require no acknowledgement from you or Cooper, the reward I receive from my Eliza, is all I wish.——When I can think of any thing but her;—You see you have no reason to complain of my forgetfulness.

I have

The FATAL DECEPTION. 193

I have wrote you a very long letter, and it is now her right, to expect some of my attention.—I fly to her, my friend, to the source of my felicity ;—get a wife, Lambert, if you hope to be happy.—I am yours most truly,

J. FEATHERSTONE.

VOL. II.

K

Sir

Sir WILLIAM MORDEN,

Mr. WALLACE.

(Inclosed in the Preceeding.)

Sir,

I Am glad to find it is possible, to get the better of your ridiculous scruples---though at a greater price than I chuse in future to indulge you with. I can scarce be brought to conceive you were pretendedly so---in order to
extract

extract that assistance from me, my friendship never hitherto refused you—but I will not submit to these frequent fits of pusillanimous contrition.

I know you, Mr. Wallace! you are acquainted with me---as I have always indulged myself in the gratification of my passions---I have, you must allow, ever supported you in the extravagance of yours, when they did not clash with my own.—What I demand in return, and on which must depend your future expectations from me, is a ready concurrence with my designs; and an active assistance, when my affairs make it necessary to require it. In the mean time, trouble me with no more of your sermons, and at-

tempt not to offer advice, which you know I cannot approve, and must be convinced I will never follow.

The inclosed note will keep you in temper for a while, and enable you to continue some time longer, your profuse distribution of it, upon that inanimate being, to whom I am convinced you are the greatest dupe.

You are surpris'd, you tell me, at my having proceeded such lengths with Wilton, and when I have so nearly accomplished my purpose, agree to an unaccountable delay---Louisa was, it is true, my principal object---she was handsome, and pleased me---her fortune, not despicable---But I will candidly

didly acquaint you—pride more than love determined me to exert every means, lawful or otherwise to obtain her—she treated me with inattention, if not disrespect—this roused my resentment—and as the only means to complete my purpose, was getting Lord Wilton into my power---I resolved to proceed upon that plan.—You are no stranger to the means by which I effected it, or the consequence, if in such a time, Lord Wilton does not procure his sister's consent to marry me.

I depended much upon her brother's influence, and I believe she might, by this time, have been intitled to a separate maintenance out of my estate;

K 3 (well

(well convinced I should have been tired of her in a fortnight) if an attachment the tender creature had taken to Lady Wilton's brother, had not inspired her with intrepidity to oppose the will of her brother, with steadiness and perseverance.

I am now going to discover to you, the motive which at present actuates me, and which will account to you, for my apparent negligence in an affair that I have taken such considerable pains, and used such dangerous methods to accomplish.----A puny girl from Portugal, has robbed the fair Louisa of all my tenderness---consequently lowered my resentment. I would be content to accept the half-forfeit

forfeit of Wilton's engagement, and give her a general discharge, could I be assured of succeeding with Miss Lambert---but she appears to have no passions---and her brother, haughty and reserved---has expressed his disapprobation of me personally, and in terms most provoking.

I have a great and daring game to play, in which it is likely, I may assign you a capital part---so let me hear of no more qualms of conscience.---You and I are too far advanced in libertinism, to cut a figure in the world, in any other character.---You see I make free with myself, therefore shall make no apology to you.

Lambert may forget the freedom of his sentiments---Lord Wilton's estate shall make me forget the indignities I have suffered from his haughty sister; and Lucy shall, by force or intreaty, gratify my pleasure and revenge---till I can effectually strike the blow, I meditate, I avoid suspicion by appearing satisfied and inoffensive. Be ready at a moment's warning, to follow my directions; of which I will apprise you in time.

I need not say be faithful, your prudence and discretion, will necessarily put you in mind, you have been too deeply concerned in bad affairs of mine already, as well as your own, to recant with impunity.

W. MORDEN.

Sir

I cannot may forget the freedom of
his sentiments--Lord Wilson's estate
shall make me forget the indignities I
have suffered from his daughter's sister.

From the same to the same.

THIS will be delivered to you,
when you have leisure to reflect upon
your foolish stupidity and unparalleled
ingratitude to your best benefactor.

I received your letter with astonish-
ment and contempt----despise your
meanness, and will severely punish you
for a failure in that friendship, I have

given myself too much trouble to establish.

Your jesuitical insinuation, that you dropt my letter, through inadvertance, I give no more credit to, than to your pretended resolutions, of avoiding in future, the irregularities, the vices (as you are pleased to call them) I have led you into.---Your assumed pretension to candour, in giving me information, of your having made a solemn promise, to communicate to Lambert's friends all I write, and wishing me to decline all future correspondence with you, is a subterfuge too ridiculous, to answer any other end, than making the parties you are now emissary for, despise you, as much as I do. I would
have

have allowed you some degree of merit, if by making yourself a complete villain, you had effectually betrayed me, as you might have done, by hypocrisy; as it is, the discovery from the measures I have taken, will be no great obstruction to my designs; but will make you smart severely for your villainy.

The bond I fortunately obtained of you some time since, for five hundred pounds; obtained of you, for the very purpose I now use it, will not be so cheerfully discharged by your present employers, as I should have canceled it, had you not betrayed me! had you not forgot all obligations to me! in short, had you not been a cowardly scoundrel--your pretended repentance

proceeds from fear, and you will appear to be honest, no longer than you dare be otherwise.---In prison your genius will be cramped; and if it is possible you can be sorry for any part of your conduct, it is the place in the world most likely to make you so.---- Where, as the last proof of my regard, I have established you, and where, I dare say, you will not fail, to repent your folly, and the baseness of your behaviour, to

W. MORDEN.

Mr.

proceeds from fear, and you will ap-
pear to be honest, no longer than you
dare be otherwise. In prison your ge-
nius **Mr. LAMBERT,** and it is pos-
sible you can be sorry for any part of
your conduct, it is the place in the
world most likely to make you so.---
Where is the last proof of my regard,
Mr. FEATHERSTONE

I Communicated to Lord Wilton,
the contents of Morden's letter to Wal-
lace:-- the discovery was providential,
and I forget my folly, in going to that
place of intrigue, since it will be pro-
ductive of happiness, to Cooper and
Lady Louisa.

You

You will readily conceive all that has happened, when I tell you Lord Wilton is gone abroad, and Morden has received the just reward of his villainy ;—he is yet alive, but not expected to recover.

The morning after Lord Wilton was apprised of Morden's infamy, he brought me securities upon his estate, for twenty thousand pounds, the amount of which, he begged I would assist him with, to discharge the bond Morden had against him ;—the money I have in the stocks, at the instant put it in my power to serve him.

He told me, (under the strongest injunction not to divulge it, till after the meeting) that convinced of Morden's consummate villainy, he could

no

no longer bear to think of his own folly and injustice, in so warmly inter-
esting himself in favour of his al-
liance, with Lady Louisa:—he declar-
ed, though her concurrence would
still fulfil the condition of his bond,
and consequently save the forfeiture
of the sum I lent him, he would not
on any consideration submit to the
terms;—that he never would have en-
couraged the thought, if he had not
till then, had a tolerable opinion of his
disposition and principles.—But it was
now plain, he had scandaluously im-
posed upon him, for which he should
severely account.

I find the debt was incurred at play,
and Morden, my Lord told me, pro-
posed to accept his bond for the money,
conditionally, if he was not able to
pre-

prevail upon his sister, to marry him within the term of two years.

There was certainly much appearance of candour and generosity in this proceeding, and we cannot altogether condemn Lord Wilton's being interested in his favour; though it is scarce possible to suppose, (if we may judge from the tenor of his letter,) that he meant fairly.

I have, contrary to my inclination, been drawn into an active part of the affair:—not finding it possible to decline the warm sollicitation of Lord Wilton, to attend him as his second.

I avow myself an advocate against the general practice of duelling, where from trifling punctilios, friends are un-

der

The FATAL DECEPTION. 209

der the necessity of engaging friends, where misrepresentation, and a false sense of honour, frequently exclude, that just concession which conscience, would otherwise prompt the blamable party to offer;—and by that more honourable method, preserve a worthy individual to society, in his own person, or save him from the dreadful reflection, of first unthinkingly offending, and then as unjustly destroying, the life of the man he valued.

Clearly understand me Featherstone, my disapprobation of duelling, is confined principally to the unhappy misunderstanding betwixt friends, where pride will not listen to a reasonable accommodation.—But there are cases happen, where a *rencountre* becomes indispensibly necessary.

Such

Such is the light in which I see the affair, between Lord Wilton and Morden, who under his hand, has acknowledged his contemptible and unworthy opinion of his Lordship and family, the substance of his letter, implies his having fraudulently imposed upon him, and declares the strongest intentions of future mischief.—Speedy and effectual measures were certainly required, to counteract so dangerous a villain.

I have said I was unwillingly prevailed upon, to attend Lord Wilton as second. Between men of honour, when the case unhappily admits not of accommodation, none are required, but but where foul play, or misrepresentation may reasonably be apprehended, it

it then becomes essential ;—though disagreeable to myself, on this account alone, I took the field with Wilton.

Remember that I have already, in few words, at the beginning of my letter, informed you the consequences of our meeting ;—consequences, which I hope, will turn out happily for our friends ;—therefore accuse me not of an unseasonable dissertation, which the nature of the subject drew from me ; without further comment, receive the particulars.

In my Lord's name I waited upon Morden, paid him the money ;—and received a sufficient discharge.—To do the wretch justice, he wanted not courage, but assured me, he would be ready to meet my Lord,
and

and decide the quarrel, when, and how he pleased.—He knew, he said, the occasion of my Lord's resentment was from an intercepted letter, that his confidence in a rascal had induced him to write.—He was above disguise, and avowed the letter containing his genuine sentiments.

I told him for the present, I should wave the insult he had given me in it; being in Lord Wilton's name, to insist upon a meeting, at six that evening, a little out of town, upon the Bristol road.—The choice of weapons depended on himself;—swords he said should decide it!—upon pointing out the difficulty of conveying them out of Bath, (where none are permitted to be worn without giving suspicion;—he judiciously proposed his second, or my Lord's, should carry them to the ground;

ground in a post chaise, under pretence of going to Bristol,--preliminaries being thus settled, we met agreeable to appointment.--Mordens second, one Mr. Macnamara, (who appeared to deserve a worthier friend) attending with the chaise at the place.—He humanely begged to know, if no accommodation could be effected, and seemed concerned, when my Lord said impossible.

It was agreed upon, Mr. Macnamara and I should retire and not interfere till one of them fell.—The survivor was instantly to make use of the carriage, for his safety, and the seconds were jointly to offer, every assistance to the less fortunate. Justice prevailed! after some few passes on each side, Morden exerting himself to the utmost, made a desperate lunge, which slightly wounded my Lord, but not being able to recover

214 The FATAL DECEPTION.

cover himself, received his Lordship's blade through his body :— he could utter no more, than I forgive, and I am a dead man.

My Lord instantly drove off, and we conveyed the wounded Morden to town, where he has the best surgeons to attend him, they brought him to himself, but think he cannot possibly survive it.— My Lord gave me two letters, previous to the meeting, directed for Lady Wilton, properly marked, that I might know which to deliver as the event should turn out, the other I was to destroy, he most affectionately recommended Lady Wilton, and his sisters, to my good offices, and as the strongest inducement, declared he had no longer any objection, to the alliance of our common friend, with his sister Louisa.

You

You will wonder I have said nothing of Cooper,—by my Lord's directions, he was intirely ignorant of what was going forward, I told him my Lord would be from home that evening, and he by that means might attend the Ladies ! which I requested him not to neglect ;—conscious, if my Lord had fallen, his fraternal assistance to her Ladyship, would be most efficacious. Lady Wilton's present situation, required the greatest caution to be used ;—We have been so fortunate to explain matters to her, without any great alarm ;—she is satisfied my Lord is well and safe :—I did not think it necessary to acquaint her, with the wound in his arm, which my Lord as he left me, said was a mere scratch.

A note of two lines received by express from him, informs us he is on board

board a vessel, in which he purposes to go to Milford Haven, where he will continue *incog.* under the name of Fenton, till he receives advice from us.

The compassion of the Ladies, is naturally engaged, for the unhappy, yet unworthy Morden:—but a prospect of the future happiness of Cooper and Lady Louisa, to which there are now no obstacles, will administer every consolation for Morden's death, and my Lord's temporary absence, a dangerous prosecution not being apprehended.—Need I tell you Cooper is out of his wits.—Morden has just sent to desire to see me, in my next you shall know on what account, with best compliments to your amiable wife, I am dear Featherstone, ever yours,

J. LAMBERT.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

